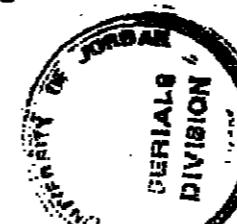




ARAB TIMES



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NO. 261 SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1990/SHAWWAL 10, 1410 AH

Jasser may run

200 registered



By Lima Al Khalafawi and Diana Abou Haidar
Arab Times staff

ONLY those who registered their names in electoral lists from September 1980 to February 1990 will be entitled to cast their votes in the upcoming Interim National Council elections.

Their number is estimated at 62,000. According to the law, eligible voters can register their names during one month of the year. This year it was February.

Jasser Khalid Al Jasser, a prominent member of the previous National Assembly said that he is reconsidering his earlier position under pressure from his constituents and he will decide by Tuesday whether to run.

"I am under increasing pressure from my constituents, who supported me over the past 22 years, to run. I will not betray my constituents if they say, run I have to." Al Jasser, former Kuwaiti deputy said.

The number of registered candidates has reached 200 by Friday. Fahad is still heading the list with 22 candidates followed by Ahmad with 18. Qibla and Rowda witnessed the least activity with two candidates each.

Six candidates registered for Faitha.

(Continued on Page 11)

Britons swing to Labour

LONDON, May 4, (AP): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservatives suffered stunning defeats in local elections, going down across the country to the Labour Party's strongest performance since she won power 11 years ago.

But the Conservatives averted the rout forecast in opinion polls before the election. Thatcher contended that, despite a big 11 per cent swing against the government, she had the base for winning a fourth term in 1992.

"We've lost some we hoped to hold ... but we have a very good basis on which to go forward and win the next general election," she said.

She was speaking a day after the elections at a news conference at Waddesdon Manor, northwest of London, where she met with French President Francois Mitterrand.

Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party, said the results showed broad support for his party throughout England.

"That is the spread of support that we need which makes me forecast that we are certain to win the next election," Kinnock said.

For the first time since James Callaghan's Labour government lost power to Thatcher in 1979, the socialist party made significant gains in the Tory heartlands of the prosperous south.

The Conservatives, in deep trouble over the economy and the so-called poll tax, lost control of a clutch of previously safe southern English towns, including Portsmouth, Torbay and Gillingham.

The governing party also failed to gain ground in northern England and remained virtually wiped out in Scotland.

But the Conservatives performed strongly in London. They held two key boroughs, Wandsworth and Westminster, which have set the lowest poll tax rates in the country and are lauded by Thatcher.

Though it won control in 10 new local councils, Labour lost to the Conservatives in the London borough of Ealing, where Neil Kinnock makes his home.

Tax after death

One of the more absurd aspects of the UK's unpopular new poll tax came to light here when it emerged that a widow was sent a bill for her dead wife.

A retired milkman, Cyril Wood, from the West Midlands in central England was shocked to receive a demand for just under two pounds, addressed to "the executor of Dorothy Wood, deceased."

Speaking calmly at a news conference, Xu Lin, 33, a third secretary in the education office of the Chinese embassy, said he defected Wednesday night because he was going to be sent back to China ahead of schedule. (UPI)

40 killed

Train derails

OAXACA, Mexico, May 4, (AP): A passenger train lost its brakes and derailed along a dry riverbed in the southern state of Oaxaca, killing at least 40 people and injuring more than 34, the Mexican Red Cross said today.

Rescue workers continued to search the wreckage of the Mexico City-bound train for more victims.

The train could have held as many as 240 people, but it was not immediately known how many passengers were actually aboard when it derailed last night. The train originated in Oaxaca, about 220 miles (354 kms) south of Mexico City.

The accident occurred in the mountains near the state capital of Oaxaca. Red Cross rescue worker Victor Meneguend said in a telephone interview.

13 killed in Kashmir; talks possible: India

JAMMU, India, May 4, (Agencies): At least 13 people were killed today in a flare-up of secessionist violence in India's Jammu and Kashmir state, officials said.

The officials in Jammu, the state's winter capital, said security forces shot dead seven pro-independence militants who crossed into Indian-ruled Kashmir from Pakistan.

Two wounded militants were arrested and a large quantity of arms and ammunition was seized, they said.

In Srinagar, the summer capital and centre of separatist activity, four people were killed in clashes between militants and security forces.

WASHINGTON, May 4, (Reuters): Scientists have for the first time grown human brain cells in the laboratory.

"To our knowledge, no one has ever been able to grow neurons from the brain, probably from any animal, much less a human," said Dr Solomon Snyder, a neuroscientist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where the breakthrough occurred.

The achievement, which is described in Science magazine, published today, has profound implications for scientists' understanding of the nervous system and for controversial US research into the treatment of degenerative brain diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease with transplanted foetal tissue.

Neurons are the cells that make up the body's nerves, spinal cord and brain. They are different from other cells in that they normally do not

divide. When cells do not divide, new cells cannot grow to replace those that are dead or damaged.

"The problem with neurons is that they can't divide. By definition, growing tissue in culture means the cells divide. Now we have them living in a laboratory culture," Snyder said.

The discovery could help scientists to explore using cultured cells in transplants.

Some scientists have been exploring transplants of brain tissue from aborted foetuses as a treatment for such diseases as Parkinson's.

But, in a move that outraged the US scientific community, the US government has banned federal funding for such research, arguing that it would promote abortions.

"In principle, anything that one could do with a foetal tissue transplant, one could do with this just as well if not

better," Snyder said.

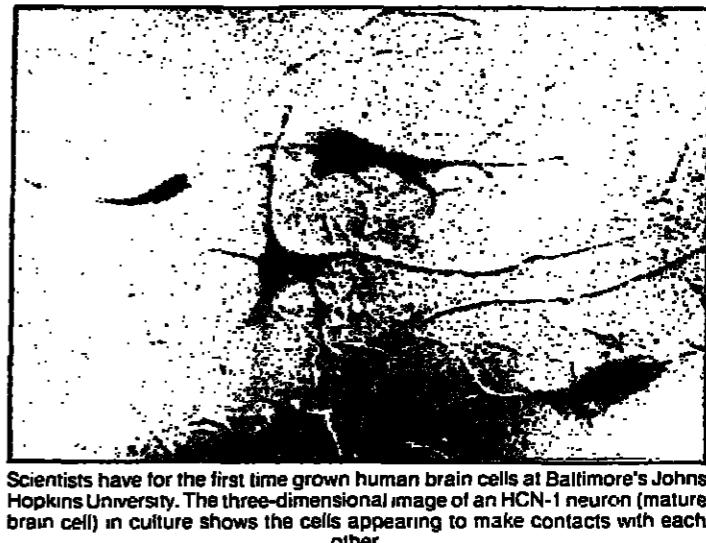
The Johns Hopkins researchers already are collaborating with transplant experts, designing new experiments, he said.

The researchers obtained the cells for their culture from the brain of a patient undergoing surgery for the treatment of uncontrollable seizures.

Cells from the patient's cerebral cortex, the part of the brain that plays a key role in consciousness, memory, thought and intellect, were removed and immediately placed in a laboratory culture.

After 21 days, two small clusters of the cells had survived, which the scientists then cloned.

The researchers used various tests to ensure the resulting cells were representative of normal brain cells and then treated them with different combinations of nutrients and hormones.



Scientists have for the first time grown human brain cells at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University. The three-dimensional image of an HCN-1 neuron (mature brain cell) in culture shows the cells appearing to make contacts with each other.

New Opec accord

Saudis, Kuwait key to oil prices

GENEVA, May 4, (Reuters): An output pact stitched together by Opec in the face of a growing world glut appeared to put the fate of world petroleum prices in the hands of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The Saudis, the biggest exporters, and Kuwait promised the largest cuts in crude oil production under the accord which, initially at least, failed to convince a sceptical market that Opec was doing enough to mop up surpluses.

New York June futures for West Texas Intermediate (WTI), the benchmark US crude, closed yesterday at \$17.99 per barrel, a drop of 69 cents on the day.

Generally, world oil prices are down about 25 per cent since January. The drop

led Sadek Boussena of Algeria, the president of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, to call emergency talks of the 13 oil ministers.

The meeting ended yesterday with unsigned promises of output cuts totalling, if implemented, almost 1.5 million barrels per day or six per cent of recent Opec output.



So many!

Six-month-old Emily Nye plays amongst some of 17 St Bernard puppies born on March 23. Emily's mother Sally had her bitch Chloe artificially inseminated and was surprised that so many puppies were produced

The Guinness Book of Records has recognised the litter as the largest ever recorded in Australia. (Reuters wirephoto)

Iran seeks talks with Egypt over prisoners

CAIRO, May 4, (Reuters): Iran is seeking direct talks with Egypt on the fate of several thousand Egyptians taken prisoner during the Iran-Iraq war, an official Egyptian source said today.

"They want to tell the world we were involved in the war which of course is not true," the source, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters.

"We were never part of the Gulf war. Iran captured Egyptian fishermen and workers in Iraqi areas which were seized during the war."

The source did not say how Iran, which has no diplomatic ties with Egypt, had passed on the talks invitation. He said Tehran was trying to use the PoW issue to embarrass Cairo.

More than a million Egyptians were working in Iraq during the 1980-88 war.

Al Baath said the summit had undoubtedly

Mubarak-Assad summit

A promising start

DAMASCUS, May 4, (Reuters): Syria said today that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's visit produced a promising start on rebuilding Arab unity, but no miracles.

"Maybe the summit had (too) many things to do, but the foundation stone was re-set," commented the ruling party newspaper Al Baath.

"The Damascus summit, even if it did not perform miracles, opened the way for Arab solidarity. Maybe it put an end to the state of collapse and weakness caused by contradictory Arab positions."

Mubarak's visit to Damascus on Wednesday and Thursday was the first by an Egyptian leader in 13 years and sealed a rift that resulted from the late Anwar Sadat's peacemaking with Israel.

But Mubarak could not persuade President Hafez Al-Assad to end his long-standing quarrel with Iraq.

Al Baath said the summit had undoubtedly

ended an era of division and would help the Arab world counter what it called the expansionist schemes of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

The government newspaper Tishreen attacked the United States for failing to take any serious initiative to restore Arab rights or put any serious pressure on Israel.

"The United States will continue its negative stand as long as Arabs remain fractured," it said.

"From this point of view, the Syria-Egypt meeting was a turning point in unifying Arab effort. It was a promising meeting on more than one level. It is the start of a new Arab effort."

Saudi Crown Prince Abdallah Bin Abdul Aziz is due to arrive in Damascus tomorrow and will proceed to Amman and Baghdad in a fresh effort to reconcile Syria and Iraq on the eve of the proposed extraordinary Arab summit.

Saudi diplomatic sources disclosed tonight.

Israelis fired on Hussein

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 4, (AP): An Israeli navy boat fired on the yacht of Jordan's King Hussein as the monarch was standing on deck, an Israeli newspaper reported today.

A military spokesman confirmed that the naval vessel was carrying out a "routine weapons check" in the vicinity of Hussein's yacht, but that no shots were fired directly at it.

The liberal daily Haaretz said the incident took place April 28 in the Gulf of Aqaba.

Bernard Lewis, author of 20 books on Islam, said hatred of the United States manifested in such episodes as the 444-day hostage crisis that ended in 1981 — is partly an outgrowth of "humiliation" — a growing awareness, among the heirs of an old, proud and for long dominant civilisation, of having been overtaken, overborne and overwhelmed by those whom they had long regarded as their inferiors.

And it is understandable, he said: "For vast numbers of Middle Easterners, Western-style economic methods brought poverty. Western-style political institutions brought tyranny, even Western-style warfare brought defeat."

"It is hardly surprising that so many are willing to listen to voices telling them that the old Islamic ways were best and that their only salvation was to throw aside the pagan and infidel innovations of the reformers and to return to the true path which God has prescribed for his people."

Inside

CAPE TOWN, May 4, (AP): Government and African National Congress leaders completed three days of peace talks today amid signs they made progress on removing obstacles.

See Page 6

RIGA, Soviet Union, May 4, (Reuters): The Latvian parliament declared Latvia "an independent Democratic Republic" today in the first stage of a process intended to take it out of the Soviet Union. — See Page 9

Sikh bombs kill 11

AMRITSAR, May 4. (UPI): Sikh extremists staged a spate of attacks across northern Punjab state in which at least 11 people died, including seven Hindu men shot dead in a raid on a rural hamlet, police said.

Police said the seven men were residents of the tiny village of Surat Malliai, located about 30 miles (50 km) northwest of the Sikh holy city of Amritsar.

They were shot dead at about 11.30 pm yesterday by eight Sikh extremists who entered the village wearing security uniforms and summoned residents out of their homes, police said.

Police said the assailants left a note at the scene identifying themselves as members of the Bhindranwale Tiger Force and saying the attack was to avenge the April 8 killing by security personnel of Jugraj Singh, a self-styled lieutenant-general of another underground extremist outfit, the Khalistan Liberation Force.



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500 killed during democracy movement

KATHMANDU, May 4. (Agencies): At least 500 people died during the seven-week democracy movement in the Himalayan kingdom that led to the fall of a 29-year-old partyless system of government. Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai said yesterday.

"Our estimate is that at least 300 persons died during the movement," Bhattarai, who was an opposition leader before becoming prime minister, told a meeting organized by lawyers to discuss the shape of Nepal's new constitution.

Previous reports have indicated at least 52 people were killed when police clashed with protesters demanding democracy in the land-locked monarchy, and Bhattarai did not explain how he obtained the new figures.

However, human rights leader Rishikesh Shaha said, "Bhattarai is near to the truth. My estimate is 300 to 400 persons (died)."

India may get Bofors report

STOCKHOLM, May 4. (Reuters): The Swedish government said today it might pass to India classified parts of a report about charges that arms maker AB Bofors bribed Indian officials to secure a huge 1986 arms deal.

Opposition members on parliament's constitutional committee voted yesterday in favour of giving India the 1987 report into allegations that Bofors paid bribes to secure the £1.3 billion contract for field cannons.

The minority social democratic government has in the past turned down repeated Indian requests for the report, which was produced by Sweden's state audit bureau.

In January, the Indian government filed preliminary criminal charges against Bofors, which denies having made bribes. Bofors says any payments were severance pay after India said that no middlemen could be used in the deal.

A vote by the full parliament to release the report would not be binding, but the government would accept it, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lars-Olof Lundberg said.

"If the parliament's decision is in favour ... then the government will give the report (on Bofors) to the Indian government through diplomatic channels, but it will not be made public," he said.

Lundberg said it was still uncertain whether the full parliament would make the recommendation. "I don't know if there will be some debate within the opposition parties," he said.

Tigers kill 5 Bangladeshis

DHAKA, May 3. (Reuters): Royal Bengal tigers killed five people in the Sundarbans tidal forest of southern Bangladesh over the past two days, forest rangers said yesterday.

They said the tigers killed four men and a woman and also attacked at least 10 other people who were fishing in the forest.

At least 200 fishermen, woodcutters and honey collectors were killed by tigers in the Sundarbans in 1989, the rangers said.

Poaching has deprived the forest's 600 royal Bengal tigers of their usual prey and turned some into man-eaters.

Bhattarai criticises Nepal monarchy

500 killed during democracy movement

Shaha referred to a confrontation when troops opened fire on demonstrators marching to the royal palace shortly before King Birendra consented to a multi-party democracy last month.

"I have reports from witnesses who have said authoritatively that bodies that night were carried off in at least four trucks," he said. "You can imagine how many bodies can be loaded in one truck."

A former human rights activist with links to the government said he had believed "at least 400 persons were killed during the movement" and added the prime minister "must be speaking on the basis of some facts."

Bhattarai was inaugurating a three-day conference by the Nepal Law Society to discuss the nature of a new constitution.

The king suspended parts of the existing constitution regarding institutions of the ousted partyless panchayat system. Nepal's first multi-party government in 29 years was appointed by the king using emergency powers in the present constitution.

Bhattarai said King Birendra, who has extensive powers, wants to become a constitutional monarch. He criticised the monarchy's 29 years of almost absolute rule.

"We have had extensive discussions," Bhattarai said. "The king has to be constitutional. He has agreed. He is fed up. I am not pushing him."

"The king is also agreed that other members of the royal family should have less powers," Bhattarai told a cheering audience.

The queen, Birendra's brother and other members of the royal family have extensive businesses and head institutions like the Nepal Red Cross.

Bhattarai, who heads an interim government pending elections, reiterated a committee will be formed soon to draft a constitution within 90 days.

He said the constitution will formally incorporate the right of "freedom of worship" after a request by Christians.

Nepal is the world's only Hindu kingdom and proselytizing is a punishable offence, but freedom of religion is tolerated. There are 50,000 Christians among the population of 19 million, who are mostly Hindus and Buddhists.

Guest speaker Albert Blaustein, a professor of law and constitutions at Rutgers University School of Law in New Brunswick, N.J., said the new constitution must be "made by Nepalese, and it must be framed to meet the needs of the Nepalese people."

For the second phase of the construction of Indus highway the aid would be worth 20.7 billion, he said.

According to the spokesman 19.3 billion has been earmarked for readjustment to balance of payments position.

Apart from this, Premier Kaifu announced, an aid of \$340,000 for protection of Manaswadi, the 5,000-year-old ruins near Larkana on the banks of Indus River.

■ Kaifu today extended an invitation to Benazir Bhutto on the first day of his two-day official visit to Pakistan.

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He told a press briefing that Benazir had indicated that she would undertake the trip early next year.

■ A Sri Lankan official said today that Kaifu was "satisfied with (the Sri Lankan) government explanation regarding reports of alleged human rights violations in Sri Lanka.

Amnesty International and other human rights organisations have said that many of the thousands of civilians murdered in the past two years were victims of pro-government death squads trying to wipe out a Sinhalese nationalist terrorist movement.

Bratman Weerakoon, advisor on international affairs to President Ranasinghe Premadasa, told a news conference that Premadasa had explained to the Japanese prime minister that he had to reluctantly act against the terrorists as they were a threat to democracy.

Weerakoon said Premadasa had told Kaifu that most reports on human rights violations in Sri Lanka had been exaggerated. He told him that the action taken was just and reasonable in the light of the threat faced at the time.

Since 1983, over 10,000 Sri Lankans have died in ethnic violence sparked by Tamil fighting for independence and by Sinhalese nationalists opposed to granting Tamils greater autonomy.

Asked if the government was surprised that the Japanese prime minister raised the question of human rights violations, Weerakoon responded negatively adding that most of the donor countries bring up these matters from time to time.

He said the Japanese prime minister has been told of the various steps taken by the government to restore normalcy in the country including the phased withdrawal of the state of emergency.

■ Kaifu, on the last leg of his five-day tour of Asia, arrived today for talks expected to focus on maintaining foreign aid to Indonesia at current levels.

Kaifu, the seventh Japanese prime minister to visit Indonesia, was greeted at the Jakarta airport by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and other Indonesian dignitaries and foreign diplomats.

He later met with President Suharto at a welcoming ceremony.

Japan to give \$38m aid to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, May 4. (Kuina): Japan pledged a total of sixty billion yen (\$38 million) additional aid to Pakistan after Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu held talks on Wednesday with Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on the first day of his two-day official visit to Pakistan.

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Secret accounts revealed

Marcos friend kept two sets of bank books

NEW YORK, May 4. (AP): A Filipino awaiting sentencing for fraud testified yesterday that a close friend of the late President Ferdinand Marcos kept two sets of books at his California bank and regularly shredded one set after reviewing them.

The witness, Rodolfo Arambulo, said he was told that the California Overseas Bank and keeping 65 per cent of the shares himself.

He said Benedicto personally handled all transactions for about 15 "nominee" savings and checking accounts that were later established to handle money that flowed in from Manila, Hong Kong, New York and Japan, where Benedicto had once served as the Philippines' ambassador.

Benedicto ordered two different sets of monthly statements, one a computer-generated version, the other a report in summary form, Arambulo said. "I submitted the reports to Robert S. Benedicto. He reviewed the reports, and he shredded the reports," he said.

Among payments from the accounts, he said, were monthly transfers to the Philippine government as part of the deal worked out by US and Philippine authorities. A court spokesman said yesterday judge John F. Keenan had not approved any such agreement.

According to a Los Angeles Times story April 22, Benedicto agreed to turn the bank over to the Philippine government as part of the deal worked out by US and Philippine authorities. A court spokesman said yesterday judge John F. Keenan had not approved any such agreement.

However, he is reported to have made a deal with US prosecutors that would allow him to avoid trial for being called as a witness.

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INTERNATIONAL

O'Connor, Madonna remain at the top

NEW YORK, May 4. (AP): Sinead O'Connor's hit "Nothing Compares 2 U" retained the number-one position Wednesday at the top of the pop singles record charts in the United States for the second week in a row.

The week's top newcomers were "All I Wanna Do" by Heart, which

climbed to number nine from 16 last

week, and Aerosmith's "What It Takes" which grabbed number 10

spot.

The top 10 pop singles, as rated by

Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (1) Nothing Compares To U — Sinead O'Connor (Chrysalis).

2. (2) Don't Want To Fall In Love — Heart (Warner Brothers).

3. (4) I Want To Be Rich — Culture (Sire).

4. (5) How Can We Be Lovers — Michael Bolton (Columbia).

5. (10) Whip Appeal — Bay Face (Sire).

6. (3) All Around The World — L.A. Star (Arista).

7. (9) Without You — Motley Crue (Elektra).

8. (7) Here and Now — Luther Vandross (Epic).

9. (16) All I Wanna Do — Heart (Capitol).

10. (1) What It Takes — Aerosmith (Geffen).

The top 10 country-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (2) Walkin' Away — Clem Black (RCA).

2. (3) I'm Over You — Keith Whitley (RCA).

3. (9) The Domino Theory — Steve Wariner (MCA).

4. (15) It Looks Could Kill — Rodney Crowell (Columbia).

5. (1) Help Me Hold On — Travis Tritt (Warner Brothers).

6. (6) I Watched It All (On My Radio) — Lionel Cartwright (MCA).

7. (12) Guardian Angel — The Judds (RCA).

8. (9) Bring Back Your Love To Me — Earl Thomas Conley (RCA).

9. (10) Walking Shoes — Tanya Tucker (Capitol).

10. (11) I've Cried My Last Tear — Vicki Van Stethon (Columbia).

And in London, Madonna topped the British pop singles chart for the third week in a row with "Vogue," while "Opposites Attract" by Paula Abdul with the Wild Pair moved up two spots to second spot.

This week's top 10 singles, as listed by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (1) Vogue — Madonna (Sire).

2. (4) Opposites Attract — Paula Abdul with the Wild Pair (Sire).

3. (2) Black Velvet — Alanis Morissette (MCA).

4. (16) Dirty Cash — Adventures of Saffron V (Mercury).

5. (3) The Power Of Sun (Arista).

6. (9) Killer — Adamas (MCA).

7. (1) Step On — Happy Mondays (Factory).

8. (7) Ghetto Heaven — Family Stand (Atlantic).

9. (6) Kingston Town — UB40 (Deptford International).

10. (8) A Dream A Dream — Soul II Soul (Virgin).

US town shocked by suicides

Series of self-killings at Sheridan High School, Arkansas

SHERIDAN, Arkansas, May 4. (AP): Mourners of three teen-agers who killed themselves were told at the first victim's funeral that it was too late to bring him back, but going with him was "still our choice."

Thomas Smith, 17, was the first of three suicides among students at Sheridan High School in two days, and counsellors for their classmates were on 24-hour call. About 80 students missed classes Wednesday, about 30 more than usual.

Some of the absentees were among about 250 people packed into the funeral home chapel to hear the Rev. Dennis Moon urge them to cling to God as they

grieved over Smith's death.

"Bringing back Tommy is beyond our control, but going with him is still our choice," said Moon during the 20-minute service.

"I believe we need to begin to stop asking the unanswerable question, 'why?' and we need to begin to ask the answerable question, 'what is God going to want us to do?'" said Moon.

On Monday, Smith stood in front of his American history class, told a female classmate, "I love you," pulled a gun out of his pants and shot himself.

Later that day, Thomas Chidester, 19, a friend of Smith's, died of a gunshot

wound. He left a note that said "I can't go on any longer," according to police.

On Tuesday, the body of Jerry Paul McCool, a 17-year-old sophomore, was discovered in his home by his father. McCool, who also had been shot, knew Smith and Chidester, but wasn't close with them, officials said.

All three deaths were ruled suicides, said grant county Sheriff Cary Clark.

In addition to those deaths, a 17-year-old classmate shot himself to death March 28. And three other county residents — ages 22, 40, and 82 — have killed themselves since Jan. 23.

Hours after the latest shooting, parents

and students packed the school's 1,000-seat auditorium to discuss the suicides. Some held hands. Some cried.

About 60 counsellors and clergymen from around the state had arrived at the normally quiet bedroom community 30 miles (50 km) south of Little Rock.

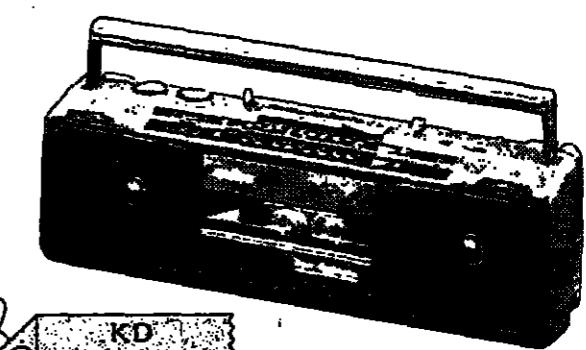
School superintendent David Robinson said students met with counsellors in group sessions and one-on-one Wednesdays.

"Obviously school, as such, is not occurring at the moment," Robinson said. "Actually, it's more like a massive counselling session."

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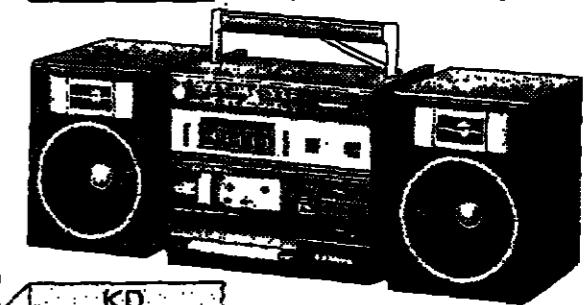
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Rain havoc in Texas

LUCKBOCK, Texas, May 4. (AP): After two years of drought, the "bone dry state" was badly parched. But when it finally rained, it poured.

Record downpours this spring in north-central Texas — known as the Badlands — have caused flooding, claimed nine lives, damaged crops, and sent residents scrambling from their homes. Ditching rain, 60-mile (100-km) per hour winds and tornadoes continued yesterday.

"Not since 1922 have we had rain like this," said Ed Delfago, spokesman for the National Weather Service in Fort Worth.

"We have seen some lakes rise in water level by 4 feet (1.2 metres) overnight, and there is more rain in the forecast."

Torrential rains yesterday caused or threatened flooding from San Antonio northward and eastward into the neighbouring states of Oklahoma and Arkansas. In addition to the eight lives lost in Texas, a 9-year-old Oklahoma city boy drowned Wednesday in a rain-swollen creek, authorities said.

Some areas had up to seven inches (18 cm) of rain in 24 hours. Twisters occasionally hit the area, including one early yesterday that touched down in the town of Paris, Texas, damaging 18 houses and businesses and injuring seven people.

"Fields are starting to turn white, which indicates the wheat is dying," said Dr Ken Stokes, an economist for the Texas agricultural extension service.

Trump lashes Forbes' report on his assets

NEW YORK, May 4. (UPI): Donald Trump denied a recent Forbes magazine report that said his debts were much larger than commonly believed and many of his properties were purchased with borrowed money.

But Forbes said many of the properties are not owned outright.

It listed Trump's debts as \$3.2 billion, leaving his empire with a net worth of \$500 million.

That figure is much too low, Trump said, claiming, for example, that the article left out income of \$34.4 million from the Taj Mahal, but added it's a disgrace.

The real estate developer questioned the credibility of the reporter who wrote the article and criticized the magazine itself for what he said was its motive.

The Forbes article listed Trump's holdings as his three Atlantic City casino hotels, including the new

Taj Mahal, his personal residences, properties like the Trump shuttle. Their total worth comes \$3.7 billion, the magazine said.

He added: "They said that my empire is down to mere \$500 million. I'm saying that the assets are far more valuable than they give them credit for."

But Trump would not comment on the net worth of his empire.

"Forbes is doing everything they can, possible, to make me look as bad as possible," he said. "It's a disgrace. But again, it's the same writer that wrote about Merv Griffin and consistently writes negative about Trump."

The programme said the reporter, Richard Stern, had erroneously reported previously that Griffin had bested Trump in a business deal.

Earlier this year, the actor attempted suicide by inhaling automobile exhaust.

Rappaport's body was found Wednesday evening at a funeral home in San Francisco valley, said Sgt. William Davidson.

In addition to "L.A. Law," Rappaport starred in the 1986-87 series "The Wizard," about a scientist who invented high-tech toys and gadgets. (AP)

NEW YORK: Simultaneous memorial musical tributes for jazz great Dexter Gordon will take place Sunday in Harlem, Los Angeles, Paris and Copenhagen, Gordon's family announced yesterday.

Gordon, a saxophone player who lived in Europe for many years, died last week in Philadelphia at the age of 67.

In accordance with his wishes, Gordon's body will be cremated and his ashes scattered at sea, his family said.

In 1986, Gordon received an Academy Award nomination in the best actor category for his starring role in the movie "Round Midnight" for his portrayal of an American jazz musician living in Paris in the 1950s.

Gordon, born Feb. 27, 1923, in Los Angeles, was one of the foremost tenor players on the 1940s bebop jazz scene. His playing influenced Sonny Rollins and John Coltrane, who built on his probing, rhythmic style. (UPI)

The dispute at the Joffrey, based in New York and Los Angeles, stems in part from a budget deficit of about \$2 million. (AP)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

WASHINGTON: A Springfield, Illinois, pediatrician reports in a medical journal that one of his patients was scared into constipation by a television commercial that showed a toilet turning into a biting monster.

Dr. Virginia R. Pyle, writing in the April issue of Pediatrics, said a 3-year-old boy was brought to his office for treatment of constipation after the youngster refused to use the family's bathroom.

The child's functions had all been normal throughout his life and he had been thoroughly toilet-trained for six months, the doctor said.

But then the boy started refusing to move his bowels and eventually would do so only in a diaper while standing up. And he refused to say why the sudden change in habits.

"Finally," Pilapil writes, "he gave in to his mother's constant asking and told her that he had seen a television commercial ... in which a toilet bowl was portrayed as turning into a monster, with the seat covering making a chomping movement. (AP)

TAIPEI: Buy a bullet-proof vest in crime-plagued Taiwan and the maker throws in a pair of safety underpants.

The manufacturer of the vests thought up the idea of matching bullet-proof vests to boost sales of his summer line, the United Evening News said yesterday.

Bullet-proof vests are in hot demand in Taiwan because of the large numbers of gun smugglers from China and the Philippines that are in criminal business. (Reuters)

RATHURST, Australia: Australian prisoners broke into an office in their jail during a warders' strike and ordered 312 "home-delivered" pizzas.

Two hours later 140 pizzas worth \$1,200 were delivered in three cars to a surprised skeleton staff at the gate of Bathurst jail.

Warders cancelled the remaining 172 pizzas ordered Tuesday from a Pizza Hut outlet in this New South Wales country town.

The New South Wales Corrective Services Ministry said the state government would pay for the first delivery.

"They (the pizza parlour) did everything by the book, they weren't to know this was all a scam," a spokesman said.

"We had to feed the prisoners for dinner, so the wardens took the pizzas and asked for a bulk discount."

The spokesman said the prisoners also ordered 18 tonnes of ready-mix concrete for delivery to the jail. Warders declined to accept it. (Reuters)

LOS ANGELES: David Rappaport, a dwarf who played a devious lawyer known as "Mighty Mouse" on the television series "L.A. Law," was found dead in a park of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, police said.

Earlier this year, the actor attempted suicide by inhaling automobile exhaust.

Rappaport's body was found Wednesday evening at a funeral



Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega speaks during a press conference on Thursday in which he guaranteed that the leaders of the Sandinista Front will make "every effort possible to keep Sandinista soldiers from seeking revenge on the Contra rebels which are now being demobilized." (Reuter wirephoto)

Contras won't hand in firearms

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, May 4, (AP): US-supported Contras go into talks today on their demobilization insisting that the army, still led by Sandinistas, be dismantled at the same time.

President Violeta Barrio de Chamorro's government immediately rejected the demand. UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said earlier yesterday he considered the holdup in demobilization "a matter of grave concern."

Chamorro and her United National Opposition beat the Sandinistas in recent elections, but kept Sandinista Gen. Humberto Ortega as chief of staff and promised to respect the structure of an army that has fought the Contras for a decade.

Aristides Sanchez, a Contra spokesman, implied Thursday that the rebels will not hand in their weapons to United Nations representatives by June 10, as they had pledged to do in an April 19 agreement.

"One doesn't have to be so airtight about it," Sanchez replied when asked if the rebels planned to meet the deadline.

Sanchez, who is a civilian adviser to the Contra leaders, said complete dismantling of the Sandinista army simultaneous with rebel dissolution "is what the people of Nicaragua ask for, that is what the people want, and we should support that."

Roberto Ferrey, a spokesman for Chamorro's government and himself a former Contra, said the government would not "in principle" consider acceding to the rebel demand.

"June 10 is the deadline. It's not possible to change it," Ferrey added.

Sanchez spoke to reporters shortly after arriving in Managua from a rebel hideout in hill country with Israel Galeano, the top Contra chief, and four members of Galeano's general staff.

Ferrey, who represents Chamorro in the peace talks with the rebels, said the meeting with the Contras on Friday "is to discuss security issues and guarantees for their demobilization and disarmament according to the accords."

Gen. Ortega said on US television Thursday that, even with desertions and cutbacks, he plans to keep an army of 40,000. The Sandinistas never gave figures on the size of their army, but estimates put it at between 120,000 and 150,000 making it the largest armed force in Central America.

The alert is part of a nationwide defensive exercise — dubbed "Cuban Shield" — launched by Cuba's communist government on Wednesday to counter what it says is a menacing build-up of US assault forces around the island.

Cuba's armed forces Ministry warned Cubans on Sunday to be ready for a possible US surprise

attack. All military leave was cancelled and reservists were mobilised.

To Cuban border guards peering through binoculars across the kilometre of cactus scrub separating them from the Guantanamo Bay US Marine base in eastern Cuba, the scene on Wednesday seemed tranquil enough.

A US Coast Guard patrol boat with a helicopter perched on its deck steamed towards the base, which straddles the mouth of Guantanamo Bay, 1,000 km (620 miles) southeast of Havana. US airmen loaded crates onto a single Hercules C-130 transport plane standing on one of the base's two

airstrips.

On a cliff top above the sparkling blue Caribbean, off-duty US servicemen in shorts gathered to play soccer or baseball.

"The calm is dangerous," Lieutenant-Colonel Rene Ramirez of the Cuban Frontier Force told Western reporters who visited Cuban forward posts on Wednesday. "This isn't just propaganda, there is a mobilisation going on."

Havana says that three major US military exercises — "Global Shield", "Ocean Venture" and "Defex" — are being held simultaneously for the first time in the Caribbean and are directly aimed against Cuba.

Meanwhile, Colombian pilots, alarmed by the assassination of a presidential candidate aboard an airliner, decided yesterday to bar bodyguards or other armed people from flights with civilian passengers.

Their decision poses a new

problem for heavily-guarded candidates in May 27 elections who already face severe restrictions on campaign tours around Colombia.

The Colombian Civil

Aviators' Association, grouping the nation's pilots, supported a pilot who last Friday turned former President Misa Pastrana and his bodyguards off a commercial flight because of risk to past month.

Police also blame drug barons

for the murder of two leftist

presidential candidates assassinated since March although the drug lords deny the charge.

The government announced

new measures yesterday to cut

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Police also blame drug barons

MEDICAL FILE

Drug prevents fractures: A drug can reverse the loss of vertebral bone and prevent fractures in older women with osteoporosis, a common cause of disability among the elderly, according to a study.

Danish doctors who tested the medicine, called Etidronate, found that it halted the loss of bone in the spine, it did not affect bones in other parts of the body.

Osteoporosis is blamed for 1.3 million fractures annually in people over age 45. It is especially common among older women, when their bodies make less estrogen after menopause.

The research, directed by Dr Tommy Storm at Sundby Hospital in Copenhagen, was published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine. It was financed by Procter and Gamble's Norwich Eaton Pharmaceuticals, which makes Etidronate.

The doctors performed a three-year comparison study on 66 women who ranged from age 56 to 75. When it was over, they found that the vertebral bone mineral content of those who got the drug increased 7 per cent. But it decreased 3 per cent in a comparison group who got dummy pills. The number of vertebral fractures also decreased substantially in the Etidronate group.

"Although we do not know whether the dose and treatment regimen used in our study are optimal, our results are encouraging," the researchers wrote. (AP)

Aids virus gene promotes cancer: Scientists have found new evidence that a single gene of the Aids virus promotes an Aids-related cancer called Kaposi's Sarcoma.

The gene tells cells to produce a particular protein, and the new test-tube study found that this protein spurred the growth of Kaposi's Sarcoma cells taken from Aids patients.

Scientists also found that the protein was released by cells infected with the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

Kaposi's Sarcoma is a generally uncommon cancer that appears unusually often in people with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. It can be controlled medically and it rarely kills Aids patients.

The study focused on a gene called tat, which helps regulate growth of the Aids virus. In previous research, scientists had found that when mice were given a copy of this gene, they developed a skin disease that closely resembled Kaposi's Sarcoma.

Combined with that finding, the new work indicates that once the gene's protein escapes from an Aids-infected cell, it may promote the development or progression of Kaposi's Sarcoma elsewhere in the body, researchers wrote in Thursday's issue of the British journal Nature. (AP)

Drug fails to relieve disease: An experimental Alzheimer's disease drug fails to provide lasting benefits for victims of the devastating disorder, even though some initially seem to respond to the treatment, according to a study.

The research did not show "a significant clinical benefit" from the drug, known as tetrahydroaminoacridine, or THA. Alzheimer's disease is a progressive degeneration of the brain cells.

Initially, doctors gave increasing doses to see how much of the medicine patients could tolerate without harmful side effects. During this phase of the research, some patients appeared to get better. Family members said their speech improved, and they were able to do simple tasks such as answering the telephone or setting the table.

During the next part of the research, 39 patients were randomly assigned to take THA or placebo. This time, the apparent benefits did not return, and there was no important difference between the groups.

The researchers speculated that patients might have built up a resistance to the drug or that family members might have imagined the seemingly early improvement. (AP)

Firm gets monopoly: US regulators are moving to adopt new standards for the menopause drug oestrogen, an action that would give one pharmaceutical firm a monopoly on a market estimated at nearly \$300 million a year worldwide.

Only one company, Philadelphia-based Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories, would be able to market the product in this country if the Food and Drug Administration follows through on a plan to change its standard for approval of generic versions of the popular drug, FDA officials acknowledge.

Wyeth, which sells its oestrogen product under the name Premarin and has an estimated 60 per cent share of the world market for the drug, is owned by New York-based American Home Products Corp., one of the nation's largest drug companies.

Oestrogen is increasingly prescribed for post-menopausal women over long periods of time as a treatment for osteoporosis, a bone-deteriorating malady common in older women, as well as menopause symptoms. (Reuters)

Irradiation makes headway: Despite fears heightened by Chernobyl, much of the food the next generation eats will have been irradiated to make it safer, the World Health Organisation said.

WHO believes foodborne diseases may become the second largest cause of mortality in Europe after respiratory ailments. There is a simple cure, it says: irradiation.

Dr Fritz Käferstein, head of WHO's food safety division, told Reuters: "When frozen food was introduced people were convinced all the goodness was being taken out of it but today it is found in all supermarkets. The same will happen with irradiated food."

WHO experts dismiss concerns over the safety and nutritional aspects of food irradiation, saying lengthy research on animals has shown there are no long-term health effects.

And the process does not affect taste or smell, they assure food-lovers.

Bowing to pressure from the greens, the West German government has not yet sanctioned the exposure of food to X-rays. Gamma rays or electron beams. (Reuters)

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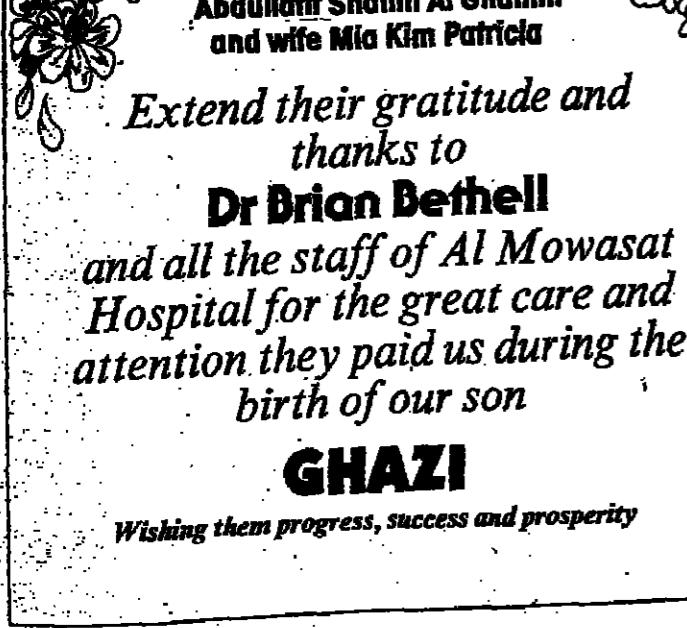
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New discoveries made

Tiny dinosaurs' remains found

WASHINGTON. May 4, (Reuters) - New discoveries of tiny dinosaurs and other little creatures that flourished millions of years ago while huge dinosaurs were dying are adding to the mystery of what killed off the big beasts, a noted scientist said on Wednesday.

Paleontologist Robert Bakker of the University of Colorado said scientists uncovered fossils and identified a new dinosaur — a long-tailed, 20-pound (9 kg) grass and plant-eating animal that lived in Wyoming some 130 million years ago.

The two-foot-long (61 cm) dinosaur was named by Bakker this week "Drinker Nisti" — and nicknamed Little Big Foot.

Bakker and other scientists found it and three other newly-found remains of creatures in the so-called Breakfast Bench fossil area Bakker identified in the 1970s.

The other petrified bones were those of two fierce, rodent-like mammals weighing less than a pound (0.4 kg) each and a turtle described as neurologically sophisticated.

Bakker said they thrived in a swampy environment between 130 million years ago when many dinosaurs were dying off and 65 million years later when scientists believe the behemoths finally became extinct — clearing the way for the emergence of mammals, which dominate the earth today.

"These petrified bones fill in one of the most important gaps in dinosaurian history, documenting a time when strange events exterminated many dinosaur families," he said.

"He does have a very interesting new dinosaur and little animals there," Sues told Reuters.

be created in order to describe them," he said.

In an interview, Bakker said there were several mass extinctions in ancient history in which many of the huge dinosaurs died while small animals flourished.

"That's the clue to this serial killer — the event out there in the eco-system that zapped these animals," he said.

Hans Sues of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History's Department of Paleobiology in Washington called "wild" Bakker's claim that a "serial killer" — something in the environment that might have stalked the dinosaur — killed them off. But he and the department's head, Jack Pierce, found interesting his uncovering of the new creatures.

"He does have a very interesting new dinosaur and little animals there," Sues told Reuters.

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China warns Muslims

BELING, May 4. (AP) Government officials have issued stern warnings to Muslim and Buddhist religious leaders in far Western China, where soldiers crushed a Muslim "holy war" for independence last month.

"Any religious activity that oversteps the constitution, laws, decrees and policies" will be punished, said Ba Dai, a top official in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. He was quoted in Saturday's Xinjiang daily, which arrived in Beijing on Wednesday.

"Religion absolutely will not be allowed to meddle in marriage or in state administrative, judicial, education, cultural and health affairs," he told region's Buddhist leaders. "Revival of the oppressive, exploitative system of religious, feudal special privileges ... will not be permitted."

Official reports have said Muslims in Aksu county, south of the ancient Bazaar city of Kashgar, proclaimed a holy war last month to restore the eastern Turkistan republic set up by Uyghurs and Kazakhs in Western Kupang in 1944-49. Uyghurs and Kazakhs are Turkic peoples.

The rebels besieged a government compound April 5 and attacked police and civil authorities, the official accounts say. Milits arrived the next day and captured or killed the ring-leaders. A total of 22 people were reported killed.

Since then, Xinjiang officials have disclaimed any plans to crack down on Muslims, maintaining that the rebels only used religion as a pretext for "counterrevolutionary activities" and did not represent the wishes of most Muslims.

Chinese Communist Party official Seyidin Aziz, a leading member of the Uighur ethnic minority, is visiting Saudi Arabia to discuss financial help and other assistance for China's Muslim communities.

Mongolia President arrives in China

BEIJING, May 4. (Reuters) Mongolian President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat, accused by opposition groups of turning his back on a national crisis, arrived in China today for the first top-level talks between the communist neighbours in 28 years.

The 47-year-old President, who is making his first foreign tour since taking office in March, was greeted by a 21-gun salute in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Before he left Ulan Bator to fly across the Gobi Desert, a coalition of opposition groups said he should delay his visit because of a national crisis.

"China's leaders object to our democratic reforms. Contradictions between the leaders could hurt the traditional friendship of the two peoples," said a joint statement by seven democratic opposition groups.

While Mongolia's democracy movement has won concession after concession from the authorities in Ulan Bator, China responded to demands for more freedom by sending the army into Beijing to crush mass demonstrations last June.

Partly inspired by the collapse of communism in eastern Europe, Mongolia's opposition sprung to life in December and won a pledge of

free parliamentary elections in late July after nearly 70 years of monolithic communist rule.

Recently the authorities have adopted a tougher-sounding line towards opposition demands.

Activists launched a protest hunger strike last Saturday and opposition sources in Ulan Bator said today that five were in hospital in the northern town of Moron.

Opposition sources and residents said 300 people were on sit-down strike in Moron's central square and 400 people in Ulan Bator's central square.

The opposition Mongolian Democratic Association (MDA) said there were rallies and sit-down protests in 14 of the 18 provinces in sympathy with the hunger strikes, who want an end to a law restricting demonstrations and a temporary parliament to replace the existing one before elections promised for July.

Since becoming the world's second communist state, Mongolia has been kept tightly within the Soviet orbit.

About 17 Mongolian pro-democracy activists were staging a hunger strike to press for faster reform and protest the detention of demonstrators last week, a source said.



Hong Kong riot policemen order Vietnamese boat people back into their homes in the Whitehead Detention Centre in Hong Kong while searches were being conducted for homemade weapons (Reuters wirephoto)

Bush disappointed on China

WASHINGTON, May 4. (UPI) President Bush expressed disappointment yesterday that his decision to limit retaliation against China for the brutal Tiananmen Square massacre has not yielded a more positive response from Beijing.

But the President offered "no apologies" for trying to keep the line of communication with China, rather than striking back for the bloody attack last June 4 on pro-democracy demonstrators in the communist capital's huge public square that left hundreds — perhaps thousands — dead.

At a news conference, Bush was asked if he could point to any signs that China's dissidents are better off and

relations are improving because of his policy. Bush responded that "several things" have changed, including China's renewal of participation in the Fulbright Fellowship programme and the admission of peace corps volunteers.

"But I'm disappointed," Bush continued. "I've said that publicly before and I am. Because I would like to think there would be a more vigorous response."

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World News Roundup

America

Train derails: A passenger train en route from Chicago to Indianapolis derailed, injuring as many as 30 people, authorities said.

The accident occurred shortly before 9 pm Wednesday (0100 GMT Thursday) on the eastern edge of Crawfordsville, about 60 miles (95 kms) northeast of Indianapolis, state police said.

From 27 to 30 people were being rushed to Culver Union Hospital in Crawfordsville, said hospital spokesman David Calleco. He said seven of the injured had already arrived at the hospital and were treated for minor injuries such as bumps and bruises. (AP)

Sex-based church: A couple cannot claim their sex-based church of the Most High Goddess is a religion protected by constitutional freedoms and thus immune from attempts to enforce vice laws, a federal judge ruled.

Wilbur Tracy, 51, and his wife, Mary Ellen, 47, argued that the church, which promises salvation through sex in exchange for monetary sacrifices, should be protected by the US constitution.

The couple testified the church was based on an ancient Egyptian religion in which intercourse with Mrs. Tracy, alias priestess Sabrina Aset, cleansed the soul as a purification rite.

Proof came in the form of cash or other "tokens of sacrifice," Mrs. Tracy testified Wednesday. (AP)

Creeping lava: Creeping lava from the Kilauea volcano on Friday was closing in on the favourite gathering place of the recently abandoned beach town.

Lava advanced Thursday night to within 75 yards (metres) of the Kalapana store and drive-in and within 175 yards (metres) of the historic Star of the Sea Church, which was being moved to safer ground.

The community was sealed off Thursday by civil defence officials as the lava flow headed directly for the centre of town.

"It is a community coming to death," the church's sister Mary Helen said. "The immediate loss is a loss of community. Something we've loved all through the years is going." (AP)

More Hubble trouble: The Hubble space telescope's critical guidance system was tested for the first time Thursday and engineers unexpectedly discovered signs the \$1.5 billion observatory was slowly wobbling back and forth.

Engineers at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt and the Marshall Space Flight Centre in Huntsville, Alabama, began 18 hours of tests on the 12-tonne telescope's precision pointing system, built to keep the giant instrument firmly locked onto guide stars during astronomical observations.

But ground controllers were surprised to receive data showing the massive observatory was slowly bobbing back and forth about one 60th of a degree every minute, far more than allowable. (UPI)

Super collider: The House of Representatives approved a bill authorising up to \$7.5 billion for construction of the superconducting super collider, one of the most ambitious scientific projects ever undertaken.

The House voted 309-109 Wednesday to authorise the money for the gigantic particle accelerator that scientists hope will unlock the secrets of the smallest building blocks of the universe. (UPI)

'Skinhead' parade: The city of Baltimore has reversed itself and will allow a parade by a white supremacist "skinhead" group rather than face a threatened court challenge.

Deputy city solicitor Ambrose Hartman said the city reluctantly approved the permit Monday, despite objections from community leaders, after concluding that it would lose in court if the racist group sued on the grounds that its right to free speech was being denied.

The group, known as Bash or Baltimore Area Skinheads, said it wants to protest the arrival of Soviet Jews in the United States and would march within a month. (AP)

'Skinheads' sentenced: Five white supremacists "Skinheads" accused of plotting to gas a synagogue were sentenced Wednesday to prison terms ranging from four to nine years for conspiring to violate the civil rights of minorities.

An all-white jury convicted the skinheads March 1 of racially motivated hate crimes against Jews, blacks and Hispanics in Dallas.

The convictions were the first under a new federal crackdown of hate groups.

Defense lawyers charged their clients were tried for their beliefs and the men merely were exercising their right to free speech. (AP)

'Cold War' savings: Sponsors of a nationwide "town meeting" radio broadcast have urged that savings from the end of the Cold War be used to restore American roads, bridges, schools and other deteriorating infrastructure rather than merely helping to reduce the federal deficit.

Concrete planning for conversion from a military-driven to a civilian economy will be needed to restore the United States as a first-class industrial country, they said. (AP)

May 4 remembered: One of America's grimmest milestones — when the words Kent State were seared into memory with the killing of four students in an anti-Vietnam war protest — will be commemorated on Friday with a simple monument and a simple phrase.

Shortly after noon on May 4, 1970, a 13-second burst of National Guard rifle fire on an Ohio college campus killed four students and wounded nine others.

A student protest against the killing in Southeast Asia had become a killing in America. (Reuters)

Europe

Successor to Concorde: Plans for a possible successor to supersonic Concorde are to be unveiled next week by British aerospace, it was reported here Friday.

But details are being kept secret until the announcement next Friday.

A spokesman for the company which almost a quarter of a century ago developed the first supersonic commercial aircraft with the French firm, Aerospatiale, said the announcement represented "a significant step forward."

But press reports in London said that the plan will give the go-ahead for a possible supersonic successor to Concorde, capable of flying nearly 300 passengers from London to Sydney in under four hours.

Swede wins damages: A Swede who won an appeal of his conviction for the 1980

World's biggest \$25m sought for pearl

LOS ANGELES, May 4. (AP): The owners of the biggest pearl in the world — a 14-pound (6.3-kilogramme) jewel the size and shape of a human brain — hope to sell it for \$25 million.

Previously known as the Pearl of Allah and the Pearl of Lao-Tzu, the natural pearl went on display yesterday and later will be shown to prospective buyers.

The Guinness Book of Records says it is the largest of its kind in the world. Part owner Peter Hoffman, a jeweller dealer, said he had been told the pearl was worth from \$25 million to \$50 million.

The pearl's stock is boosted by the romantic legend that says it grew 2,000 years ago, when Chinese philosopher-spiritualist Lao-Tzu had a small amulet placed in a clam.

People who gaze upon the stone are said to see the imaged of Buddha, Confucius and Lao-Tzu, the Filipino tribal chief who once owned it declared it a gift from God. A diver is said to have drowned trying it from a clam.

Jewellery dealer Peter Hoffman said he and co-owner Victor Barbish might sell the pearl to a museum if they can assure it will be properly insured, safeguarded and displayed.

"I think it's that kind of an item that can do nothing but good if it was on public display," Hoffman said.

murder of Prime Minister Olof Palme was awarded \$49,000 on Wednesday as damages for the 10 months he spent in jail.

Christopher Peterson, who was acquitted on appeal last year, had sought 2 million Swedish kronor, the equivalent of \$325,000.

But attorney general Hans Stark, in setting the award of 300,000 kronor, or \$49,000, said he was influenced by Peterson's long criminal record and admission that he was an alcoholic and petty thief. the TT news agency reported. (AP)

Would-be assassin tried to copy: A mentally disturbed man arrested for allegedly plotting to kill Vienna Mayor Helmut Zilk apparently intended to imitate last week's attack on West German opposition Leader Oskar Lafontaine, police said.

The suspect, unemployed Vienna Resident Anton Zwintz, was armed with a 12-inch (30 cm) bread knife when he was arrested during May Day festivities on Tuesday morning in a square outside city hall. Zilk was scheduled to visit the square later in the morning.

Police were alerted to the alleged plot by a taxi driver, who said a man matching Zwintz's description had shown him a large knife and confided he planned to kill Zilk. (UPI)

Police seize 70 kg of heroin: Italian police said on Thursday they had seized heroin with a street value of \$32 million hidden in a long-distance truck from Turkey.

They arrested the Turkish driver of the truck, another Turk and an Italian bar owner after finding more than 70 kg (155 pounds) of the drug hidden in the truck's front cabin.

Police said they believed the drugs, seized on Monday, came from Turkey and were taken by truck through Greece to northern Italy. (Reuters)

Jet crashes in England: A US air force fighter jet crashed on Wednesday in a wheat field in eastern England, but the two crewmen ejected safely, the air force said.

Master Sgt Michael Devine said the F111-F jet was on a routine attack training mission when it crashed near Bingham, 120 miles (200 kilometres) northeast of London.

Norfolk police said two buildings in the area were slightly damaged by debris.

Capt. David F. Ratcliffe, the pilot, and weapons systems operator Lt Brian W. Kirkwood were taken to their base hospital at Lakenheath, a World War II Royal Air Force airfield 60 miles (96 kilometres) northeast of London, the air force said. (AP)

Anti-pollution measures: The European Economic Community's executive commission proposed on Wednesday to take steps to reduce pollution from diesel trucks.

Carlo Ripa di Meana, the EEC commissioner for the environment, recommended that EEC governments and the European Parliament require all trucks in the 12-nation trade bloc to cut their emissions of carbon dioxide by more than half, of hydrocarbons by half and of nitrogen oxides by slightly less than half.

It would make EEC diesel trucks as clean as those from Austria and Switzerland. (AP)

500 troops killed: Ethiopian rebels said on Thursday they had killed more than 500 government troops and pushed back an army advance in the Mehra Betu district of Shoa province.

The clandestine radio of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said rebel forces killed 507 soldiers and captured 426 in the battle last Sunday.

The TPLF and its allies in the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front counter-attacked when government forces started moving towards rebel positions in Mehra Betu, 130 kms (80 miles) north-east of the capital Addis Ababa, it said. (Reuters)

Expulsion order lifted: President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire lifted an expulsion order against a journalist who reported the deaths of two protesters at an anti-government rally, the Agence France-Presse news agency confirmed Thursday.

AFP journalists in the French capital confirmed a report from Kinshasa, Zaire that their colleague, Jean-Claude Fiol, had received the presidential pardon.

Mobutu personally withdrew the order hours after it was issued Wednesday by Information Minister Ngongo Kamaunda, who had summoned both Fiol and the French ambassador to protest the report. AFP said. (AP)

Search for food

A normally wheelchair-bound Baragwanath Hospital patient takes to crutches to find food on Wednesday, the second day of a pay strike by non-medical staff services at the biggest hospital in Africa, serving about six million blacks near Johannesburg. (Reuters wirephoto)



Tiger and her cubs



included one white tiger. Only about 40 white tigers exist in North America. At right, assistant animal trainer Kathleen Umstead holds a golden tabby Bengal cub after its birth.



Down but not out

Matador Francisco Espinosa tries to protect himself as his first bull of the afternoon goes after him. Espinosa escaped serious injury on Wednesday as the horns missed their mark. The bullfighter ended with a twisted foot and was not able to continue the fight. (Reuters wirephoto)

Africa

Swiss doctor killed: A Swiss doctor who worked in Mozambique for more than 25 years was killed when his car was ambushed Wednesday by anti-government rebels, the national news agency AIM reported.

Rene Gagnaux, 61, died when guerrillas of the Mozambique National Resistance fired on his car while he was travelling on a road about 75 kms (46 miles) north of the capital of Maputo, AIM said, citing sources in the Swiss Presbyterian Church in Mozambique.

The Swiss embassy in Maputo confirmed Gagnaux's death but did not provide details, the Portuguese news agency Lusa reported from Maputo. (AP)

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Mistrustful call: Angola's Marxist government showed itself mistrustful Thursday of Unita rebels' call for an urgent meeting between their leader Jonas Savimbi and Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, and sharply criticised the insurgents for continuing attacks on civilians.

An editorial released in Lisbon by the Angolan state news agency Angop said Unita's latest proposals "proves once again that the movement is totally against the government's desire for peace and national reconciliation."

Officials of Unita, or the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, met with government representatives last week in Portugal for the first direct contacts since a truce

was brokered last June 22 by Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko collapsed within weeks.

The two sides agreed to set a strict calendar for further talks. (AP)

Land ownership laws: President Robert Mugabe vowed Wednesday to change land ownership laws which his government says have favoured white farmers.

The changes will be part of legal amendments replacing clauses in the just-expired 10 year independence constitution, he said.

Opening parliament in Harare, Mugabe said the changes will "enable government to distribute land more equitably and speedily than has been possible hitherto."

He did not elaborate.

Zimbabwe's British-brokered Lancaster House constitution prevented the government

Mental illness

Arsonist killed in ferry disaster

OSLO, May 4. (AP): Police are focusing their investigation into the cause of the Scandinavian Star ferry disaster on a convicted Danish arsonist who may have been one of the 158 victims of the inferno. Norwegian radio reported on Wednesday.

The man, who was not identified by name, was a 30-year-old Dane who had four previous convictions in connection with fires in buildings, the radio said.

A report on Swedish radio described him as a pyromaniac with a history of mental illness.

Norwegian radio quoted Oslo police chief Magnus Aslaksen as confirming that police believe the Dane may have been on board, but other leads were being investigated.

Aukrust was not immediately available, and other Norwegian officials said they had no authority to comment. A Danish police spokesman said he had no information to confirm the report.

The 10,500-ton ferry, carrying about 500 passengers and crewmen, went up in flames April 7 in the North Sea during an overnight voyage from Oslo, Norway to Frederikshavn, Denmark.

Inspectors concluded that at least three fires ignited independently on the 20-year-old ship. Passengers quickly extinguished one blaze in a pile of sheets and blankets in a corridor.

Two other fires began around the same time in stairways on either side of the ferry. Flames leapt past several decks and burst into the main restaurant area, according to testimony to a marine inquiry in Copenhagen, Denmark.

brokers last June 22 by Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko collapsed within weeks.

The two sides agreed to set a strict calendar for further talks. (AP)

Airstrips blown up: Security forces blew up on Wednesday the first of more than 100 clandestine airstrips used by gold miners in the Amazon in an effort to protect the Yanomami Indians, the world's largest primitive tribe.

More than 250 army, soldiers, air force officials and federal police blew holes into a 600-yard (metre) runway in a tropical rain forest near the Venezuelan and Guyanan borders, said federal police spokesman Jose Martins.

The other 109 clandestine airstrips will be destroyed before May 18 to prevent the 40,000 prospectors who were kicked out by President Fernando Collor de Mello from returning. Martins said in a telephone interview. (AP)

from taking over private land except on a willing-seller-willing buyer basis.

The Agriculture Ministry says some 4,000 mostly white commercial farmers still own more than one fourth of the total land while some eight million peasants occupy about one third, the rest being state property and wilderness preserves. (AP)

Panel set up: Nigeria's military government has set up a panel of security experts headed by a brigadier to investigate last month's abortive coup, state radio said on Thursday.

The panel will report to a tribunal which will try captured rebels, the radio said, quoting Colonel Anthony Ukp, principal staff officer to President Ibrahim Babangida.

Ten officers were shot in 1986 for allegedly plotting to overthrow Babangida, who himself seized power in Africa's most populous nation in 1985.

Ukp said 36 civilians were among several hundred people arrested since the April 22 rebellion was crushed.

Freedom declared

Latvia's Parliament adopts independence measure

RIGA, USSR, May 4, (AP): Latvia's parliament today adopted a declaration of independence from the Soviet Union.

The Supreme Soviet voted 138-0, with one abstention, to pass the measure, which calls for independence after an undetermined transition period. Fifty-seven anti-independence deputies refused to vote in protest.

Results of the vote were announced over loudspeakers to a crowd of several hundred people outside parliament. They cheered loudly. Those inside and outside the hall began singing "God Bless Latvia."



Bush meets with Prunskiene in Oval Office at the White House on Thursday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Lithuania seeks US help

No mediation role, says Bush

WASHINGTON, May 4, (AP): Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene appealed to President George Bush yesterday to formally recognise her government's independence from Moscow.

"I think he's going to see how events unfold there and he's going to take decisions which are compatible with US, Soviet and Lithuanian interests," she said.

Bush said at a news conference shortly before the 45-minute Oval Office meeting that he sees no role for the United States as a mediator between Lithuania and Moscow.

But Prunskiene, speaking at a reception as her long day of top-level meetings and public appeals drew to a close, said that her compatriots expect more than that from Bush.

"I made it clear to president Bush that the Lithuanian nation is awaiting basic support from him," she told an audience at the conservative heritage foundation.

"I don't think the president is at all indifferent to the Lithuanian cause," she said. "But I am, however, concerned with some of the complexities that surround this issue."

She said that what Lithuania most needs — if it accepts a proposal made by France and West Germany to slow the implementation of independence — are international guarantees that links with Moscow will in fact lead to independence.

"President Bush's involvement in this process would be very helpful," she said.

Only time will tell whether her White House meeting was productive, she said, adding: "I have not lost hope."

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Bush told Prunskiene to take back to Lithuania this message:

"I am personally, and the United States government, is committed to the self-determination of the people of Lithuania."

The White House has said Prunskiene's visit was unofficial, but Fitzwater said Bush was pleased to get a first-hand account of the conditions in Lithuania.

Bush, Fitzwater said, repeated the 50-year US policy "of refusing to recognise the forcible incorporation of the Baltic states into the USSR."

Earlier, Prunskiene said the upcoming summit between Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev could be a crucial turning point.

"Fate is giving them the chance to make an admirable mark on history," she said.

Prunskiene had said the independence crisis in Lithuania can be resolved if strong international pressure is brought on Gorbachev to permit genuine democracy in the Soviet Union.

Spring draft suspended

MOSCOW, May 4, (Reuter): The Parliament of Soviet Armenia voted on Thursday to follow the example of rebel Lithuania and suspended the spring draft of young people into the Soviet armed forces, the unconfirmed news agency Interfax said.

The move, which looked certain to anger the Kremlin, was made at a session of the Supreme Soviet which also demanded the guaranteeing of links between the republic and the disputed Azerbaijani region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Supreme Soviet of Armenia decided ... to suspend the spring draft of young people in Armenia until the creation of necessary conditions for the carrying out of military service."

No challenge to Gorbachev

Aide denies army move

MOSCOW, May 4, (Reuter): A top aide to President Mikhail Gorbachev denied today that the Soviet leader had faced a challenge from the military.

But the aide, Alexander Yakovlev, a prominent Kremlin liberal, condemned "ultra-rightists" he said were working to destroy reform.

Yakovlev also told a news conference Moscow would be ready for talks with rebel Lithuania if the Baltic republic's leaders froze their independence declaration.

"We have no facts to suggest the army is working in any way at all against perestroika or against the processes that are under way in our society," said Yakovlev, a member of the Communist Party politburo and Gorbachev's president council.

He said Western press reports in the past two days suggesting elements in the military put on a show of force in February to pressure Gorbachev into policy changes "have no basis."

"There were no army movements, and no demands made on Gorbachev or on the government," he said.

But he said an anti-Gorbachev outburst by some marchers during Red Square demonstrations on May Day was organised by ultra-conservative forces who wanted a return to "slavish obedience and subjugation of the people."

In the first comment by a top Kremlin figure on the unpreceded incident, Yakovlev confirmed that Gorbachev and other leaders left the Red Square reviewing stand because of the behaviour of some marchers.

"Yes, the leadership left the tribune and left it for political reasons, being very strongly in disagreement with the ultra-right conservative positions being expressed by people who had come onto the square," Yakovlev said.

President George Bush said yesterday he sometimes worries about a military takeover in the Soviet Union that would unseat Gorbachev and reverse Eastern Europe's strides toward democracy.

He saluted Gorbachev as "the architect of perestroika" and extolled the Soviet president for exercising "great restraint" in Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia and other Warsaw Pact countries under deep reforms.

However, he said at a news conference, US foreign policy "is not based just on Mr. Gorbachev."

Bush also denied that he has withheld support for Lithuanian independence because of a desire to see Gorbachev and his reforms succeed.

Prunskiene said the upcoming summit between Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev could be a crucial turning point.

"Fate is giving them the chance to make an admirable mark on history," she said.

Prunskiene had said the independence crisis in Lithuania can be resolved if strong international pressure is brought on Gorbachev to permit genuine democracy in the Soviet Union.

Patriarch Pimen is dead

MOSCOW, May 4, (AP): Elders have chosen the patriarch of the Ukraine to head the Russian orthodox church until a permanent replacement is named for the late Patriarch Pimen, the Tass news agency reported today.

Pimen, a monk who presided over the church during years of repression and a recent reawakening, died yesterday at the age of 79 after a long illness.

Pimen had served as patriarch of the church since 1971, leading tens of millions of believers under a government that has been officially atheist since the Bolshevik revolution of 1917.

Critics said Pimen was too much under control of the Kremlin, but his supporters said that he preserved the spiritual integrity of the church in hard times.

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Alevras won 125 votes on Friday while a communist candidate, Constantine Despotopoulos, won 21.

Caramanlis, 83, returns to the post which he established and held from 1980 to 1985. He was backed by the ruling conservative party's 150 deputies, a centre-right party's lone deputy, and two representatives of the Muslim minority in northern Greece.

He and another top candidate, Yannis Alevras, a social-

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Tass welcomes US move

Short-range arms to go

WASHINGTON, May 4, (Reuter): President George Bush said yesterday revolutionary change in the Soviet bloc has made a new Nato short-range nuclear missile obsolete and will require a summit of allied leaders this summer to consider the political role of the alliance.

Bush called a news conference to announce formally that the United States would not pursue plans for a new missile to replace the Lance and would not modernise an arsenal of nuclear artillery.

His proposal for a Nato summit was quickly agreed to by allied foreign ministers meeting in Brussels. It will be held in London, probably in late June or early July.

"I suggest that this summit should address, first, the future political mission of the alliance, reaffirming its crucial role in managing and stabilising the transformation of Europe," Bush said.

He also said the summit should agree on broad objectives for future negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union aimed at eliminating short-range nuclear arms in Europe. He said it should consider Europe's conventional forces requirements as well.

Bush said there was less need for short-range nuclear weapons because of the reduction in East-West tensions.

"In response to these new conditions, I've decided to terminate the follow-on to the Lance programme and cancel any further modernisation of US nuclear artillery shells deployed in Europe," he said. He was referring to a replacement programme for 88 Lance missile launchers. They date back to 1978 and will be obsolete in the mid-1990s.

Most of the Lance systems are based in West Germany, and are only capable of hitting targets in East Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia — countries no longer part of the Soviet empire.

The decision amounted to recognition that it is politically impossible to deploy new ground-based nuclear weapons whose ranges of less than 300 miles (480 kms) would only allow them to hit the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe.

The Republican President's announcement won quick endorsement from two powerful Senate Democrats.

"These weapons are of such a short range that they would be used only against new democracies [in Eastern Europe]. That is not politically acceptable," said Sam Nunn of Georgia, generally regarded as the Senate's top military expert and chairman of its Armed Services Committee.

Clayborne Pell of Rhode Island, chairman of the equally influential Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said:

"With this decision, the President is accepting the new political reality in Europe and fiscal realities at home."

Bush said talks on short-range nuclear arms, which the United States had proposed, should begin shortly after a treaty reducing US and Soviet conventional forces has been signed.

The Kremlin welcomes the US decision not to modernise short-range nuclear missiles, but urges Washington not to proceed with other new weapons systems in Europe, a military commentator said.

"Let us hope that, accepting in principle the Soviet proposal for talks on tactical nuclear weapons and suspending modernisation of Lance missiles and nuclear artillery, Washington does not at the same time intend to give a go-ahead for the deployment of more dangerous air-based nuclear missiles in Europe," wrote Vladimir Bogachev, a military analyst for the official Tass news agency.

Soviets 'no' to a Nato Germany

BONN, May 4, (AP): US Secretary of State James Baker tried today to persuade the Soviet Union that membership by a United Germany in the Nato alliance would not upset the delicate East-West balance of power in Europe.

But Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, while pleased by US plans to cancel new short-range nuclear missile deployments in West Germany, reiterated Moscow's opposition to such a move.

"We consider a unified Germany as an important factor of stability and peace in Europe," Shevardnadze said at the start of two days of talks on German unification. "For such a gain to belong to one bloc, one alliance ... will not create conditions of stability."

Obstacles

Shevardnadze and Baker were in Bonn for talks tomorrow with the foreign ministers of both Germany, Britain and France to discuss one of the trickiest obstacles to creating a united Germany — figuring out how to keep it from disrupting European stability.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl held separate talks with Shevardnadze and Baker today.

"We hope we will be in a position to get some answers," Baker told reporters as he greets Shevardnadze in the lobby of his hotel in Bonn.

Baker said he also planned to talk with Shevardnadze about the situation in the Soviet republic of Lithuania, which has declared independence from Moscow and is enduring a Kremlev economic blockade.

The US administration has withdrawn any direct pressure on Moscow in the Lithuania dispute while urging the two sides to give ground in their positions in order to hold talks at a peaceful settlement.

Encouraged

Shevardnadze said today he was encouraged by the latest US arms-control initiatives unveiled by Baker during the Nato meeting in Brussels.

Baker yesterday announced that the United States will scrap development of more powerful Lance missiles and abandon plans to modernise its battlefield nuclear artillery in Europe.

He also offered to negotiate a reduction in the 88 Lance missile launchers that now target East Germany with 700 nuclear missiles and 900 conventional rockets if the Soviets dropped their objections to Nato membership for a united Germany.

The latest US proposals reflect the changing situation in Europe since the overthrow of hard-line communist governments in the East bloc last year.

Shevardnadze called the US arms-reduction announcement a "good decision," but also noted that the Soviets were the first to propose eliminating short-range nuclear weapons.

"We have proposed it a long time ago and offered it," he said. "We have already almost completely destroyed this class of rockets."

Western analysts have long speculated that ultimately the United States would shift from ground-based nuclear missiles to air-launched cruise missiles as the predominant American weapon in Europe.

Baker and Shevardnadze's talks today will be followed by a summit May 30 in Washington between US President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Bush is pushing for the completion of the conventional forces treaty by the end of the year. He also wants to speed up negotiations with the Soviet Union on reducing existing arsenals of short-range nuclear arms, Baker said yesterday.

Nato Secretary-General Manfred Woerner, a former West German defence minister yesterday tried to assure Soviet concerns about allowing a united Germany to become part of the Western alliance.

"We have no intention of shifting the balance to the detriment of the Soviet Union," he said.

Until now, East Germany has served both as a loyal Soviet military ally and a buffer between the Soviet Union and US nuclear missiles and troops in West Germany.

Shevardnadze has called Germany a "testing ground" for new forms of East-West security co-operation after unification.

Asked today if he thought a united Germany should be Nato member, Shevardnadze replied firmly, "no."

Dubai becomes Aladdin's cave of consumer goods

Buyers come from East Europe and Iran

DUBAI. (Reuters): More and more East Europeans, looking for the luxuries their own economies do not provide, are finding out what deprived Iranian consumers have known for a long time — Dubai is an Aladdin's cave of consumer goodies.

Last month, traders in consumer electrical goods reported a short-term squeeze in supplying products, mainly due to an unexpected surge in demand from Eastern European buyers.

"It was unusual as far as Eastern Europe was concerned. We were not prepared but we are now expecting them to pick up more," said an export manager at Oman National Electronics.

The bazaar in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, a dynamic, mainly duty-free market-

place at a crossroads in world trade, prides itself on its range of goods from Asia and the West.

For many years now, the bazaar has been a mecca for Iranian consumers who flock over the Gulf from nearly Iran to load up with refrigerators, radios, televisions, and everything else that their own economy has failed to manufacture.

But recently, the behaviour of East European buyers in the maze of shops and warehouse along the busy creek that cuts through the centre of Dubai has become a kind of reflection in miniature of their national economic aspirations and fears.

Direct flights by East European airlines to Dubai, which is also an important international flight transit centre,

have encouraged the buying spree. Polish shoppers have led the invasion, starting to come in force about a year ago with individuals arriving on Poland's Lot airline.

"A lot of people in Poland have hard currency and want some luxury goods. Poles led the shopping because they have been abroad for some time to have foreign currency accounts," said an official at the Polish Trade Centre in Dubai.

Bulgarians and Yugoslavs, many of them air crew buying for consumer consortiums, are also combing the market for competitively priced, mainly electrical goods, a sales manager at Jacky's Electronics said.

East Germans, however, have

disappeared from the market recently, awaiting a West German decision on switching their virtually valueless savings into hard West German marks as part of the German unification process.

"They are keeping their money just now until they know whether it will be one mark, or two marks for each East German mark," said an official at East German airline Interflug.

When they get the hard currency marks, Dubai traders expect them to return.

"We can get the good products and prices from West Germany because we are so close, but no doubt if they can get to Dubai they can get them cheaper," the Interflug man said.

However, one unidentified buyer alone was sending up to

100,000 dollars worth of goods to Poland per month, said a Dubai cargo company manager.

The recent tightness in the market is largely because the East Europeans are looking for specific goods with prices that fit their pockets, and plugs that fit their sockets.

Naturally, they would like the upmarket Japanese names but it's a price-conscious market," said the Oman National Electronics manager. Cheaper South Korean electrics like Goldstar are therefore in big demand.

Television and video recorders must also work on Eastern Europe's unusual Secam/DK system, which is development of France's Secam network but which cannot work on Secam-designed products.

Action Line

RECENTLY, I received an istimara from the Traffic Department and was given a date for the driving test next month. Now I have changed my profession in my visa to take up another job. I am afraid this might affect the istimara which I received. Please clarify.

A.P. Abraham

AT the time you got the istimara, you had given the true information, relevant at that time and according to the documents you possessed; if you have now changed the profession, we don't think it would matter; you can appear for the driving test.

I HAVE been working in a reputed establishment since January 1980. I have completed 10 years. As I am not satisfied with the present salary, I am thinking of finding another job. I have been offered a placement with a good company. My present company is ready to transfer my residence. I want to take a release from my old sponsor and take my service benefits. Please advise.

G.S.S.

I SUGGEST you resign, if the old sponsor refuses to give a release paper, you can file a case against the company asking for its release, through Social Affairs Ministry. If you go to the ministry, you have to present documents showing the new company's willingness to sponsor you. As you will be resigning, you are entitled to receive seven-and-a-half days' salary per month for the first five years and half month's for following years.

I WAS working under a special contract in a ministry. I was allowed to bring my wife to Kuwait as this was included in my contract. Two months ago, I sent her back after cancelling her residence because I was planning to leave Kuwait for a long-term course abroad. Now, the study programme has been postponed, and I will be here until next year. I want to bring my wife and daughter, born in Kuwait, in view of the fact that my salary is below the required level, can you suggest how I could call my wife?

M.A. Mahboob

YOU mentioned that your contract included a visa for your family. If this is the case, then you can approach the Immigration Department with a letter from your ministry asking them to issue a visa and explaining your case. The authorities would inform you whether you have a right to get a visa or not.

A NEWS item appeared on 5/4/90 about transferring work permits into dependent's visas. I would like to know what papers are required from the sponsor; what is the salary limit for a husband to sponsor his wife and when the new rule would be put into effect.

D.M.R.

IF you earn a salary of KD650 in the private sector, you are eligible to transfer the residence and obtain a dependent visa for your wife; a marriage contract, salary certificate, valid passport with a valid visa are required.

PLEASE clarify the following for a person holding visa No. 18:

- 1) How many days notice should be given to apply for leave?
- 2) Can an employee resign while on leave? Is he required to give working days notice?
- 3) If an employee overstays his leave by more than one week and the company terminates his services, is he entitled to full benefits?
- 4) Is the three-year period calculated from the date of entry or from the date the residence is stamped on the passport?

P.C. George

1. You must give sufficient notice to apply for leave; an employer reserves the right to approve leave after studying the situation at your place of work.

2. Yes, you can resign, giving a notice before the end of the holiday, mentioning in your letter that you are on holiday and giving a notice before the end of the leave.

3. The company has the right to terminate the services of employees who absent themselves for seven days from work without any valid reason; such a termination is done according to the private sector labour laws. If an employee has been fired due to this reason, he is not entitled to end of service benefits.

4. The date the visa is issued.

Uprising

Zayed supports summit

ABUDHABI, May 4, (Kuna): United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan conferred here Wednesday with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on latest Arab and international developments.

The meeting between Arafat and Sheikh Zayed focused on threat and dangers to the Arab nation, especially the Soviet Jews emigration and Israeli and Western threats against Iraq.

The two leaders also discussed the Palestinian initiative on holding an extraordinary Arab summit to confront those threats and dangers. They also discussed peace efforts to solve the Palestinian question.

Sheikh Zayed affirmed the need for holding the summit and reiterated his country's continuous support for the Palestinian uprising to confront Israel's oppressive policies.

Sheikh Zayed also received a message from the Chairman of Sudan's Salvation Revolution Command Council Gen. Omar Al Bashir.

The message dealt with bilateral relations and issues on mutual concern.

The message was delivered last week by chairman of the Council of Trustees of Sudan-based Islamic Al Dawaa (call) Organisation Gen. Abdul Rahaman Swar Al Dhaibah during his meeting with the director of the Presidency Diwan Sheikh Sorouh Bin Mohammad Al Nahayan. Talks during the meeting tackled Islamic issues and efforts being exerted by the Dawa organisation to serve Muslims.

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Honoured

Kuwait's Deputy Army Chief of Staff Major-General Jaber Al Khaled Al Sabah (top) received at his office Wednesday the visiting delegation of the US National War College. Later, the delegates met with Interior Ministry Undersecretary Major General Yousef Bader Al Khorafi. US Ambassador to Kuwait W.N. Howell Jr hosted a reception in honour of the National War College delegation at his residence on Wednesday night. Picture (bottom) shows the ambassador with some of the delegates.



Lebanese praise Kuwaiti assistance

BEIRUT, May 4 (Kuna): The Lebanese Al-Afkar magazine today praised Kuwait's political and economic assistance to help end the suffering caused by factional fighting.

The magazine, which was commenting on arrival of the fresh batch of Kuwaiti relief aid comprising 20 trucks loads of medicine, foodstuffs and dried milk, asserted that all Lebanese, of various factions, are equal brothers to the Amir, government and people of Kuwait.

A second Kuwaiti relief convoy of 40 trucks is expected here next week, to be followed by a

third some time later, the magazine indicated.

Kuwait and its neighbour, Saudi Arabia, consider the predicament of the Lebanese people as Arab responsibility and consequently have spared no political, diplomatic or economic means to alleviate their suffering and to extinguish the flames of armed hostilities by offering more than one peace initiative, it pointed out.

Al-Afkar highlighted the immense exertion by Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al

Kuwait to set up military school

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Defence has formalised plans to establish a new military school for technical training which according to ministry officials will be the first of its kind in the Middle East.

Colonel Musa A. Al Ossaimi, who heads a committee supervising the project, told the ministry's monthly magazine "Hummah Ul Watani" that the school is designed to train graduates from the intermediate schools in various technical and military specialties.

As a background, he said that the concept to establish a military technical school was designed to qualify and graduate military staff specialising in all technical and military fields according to the needs of the armed forces. The idea was originally initiated in 1976 and planning commenced in 1980. The school is envisaged to open by May or June next year.

The student, who would be granted a corporal rank after graduation, can choose one of six offered specialties and will graduate after a three-year course, Col Ossaimi said.

He added that initially, the school can absorb about 450 students who would be first trained for three months in the Agric Training School and then transferred to the new school to study their specialties for three years.

Outstanding students will be sent abroad for advanced training and specialisation, Col Ossaimi concluded.

Uzbek official hails Soviet-Kuwaiti ties

KUWAIT, May 4 (Kuna): Deputy Premier for Cultural Affairs of the Uzbekistan Republic Omar Bek on Friday hailed Kuwaiti-Soviet relations. He also stressed the right of the Palestinian people to get back their usurped land and establish their own independent state.

Bek, currently here for an exhibition of a rare collection of Islamic art objects from the Soviet Hermitage Museum of Leningrad, said he discussed with Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah and the director of the Dar Al Aftab Al Islamiyah (Islamic Antiquities House) ways and means of boosting cultural relations in all fields.

He said President Gorbachev's restructuring policies or perestroika were facing serious difficulties taking into consideration economic and ethnic problems through which the Soviet Union is passing.

Bek said perestroika had given the peoples of the Soviet Republics the freedom to contact other people particularly the Arab region.

The Uzbek official was of the opinion that no Soviet republic was capable of independence before taking necessary steps to develop its economy, indicating that most of the Soviet republics were highly dependent on Moscow.

Condemning the immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Arab territories, Bek accused Western media of exploiting Soviet preoccupation with internal problems to facilitate Jews immigration with the aim of settling them in occupied Palestine.

He called on the Soviet Jews not to immigrate to occupied Palestine for humanitarian reasons. He did not elaborate.

Kuwait stamps shown in Paris

PARIS, May 4 (Kuna): Stamp collections of several historical periods from five Arab countries are on display in a gallery at the Arab World Institute. The exhibition opened Friday under patronage of French Communications Minister Paul Quilès.

The gallery, which displays stamps from Kuwait, Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia and Syria, is being held on the occasion of the First Day Issue of a French stamp carrying a picture of the Arab World Institute.

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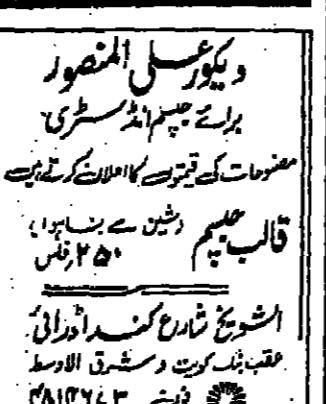
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Omani agreement up for renewal

US access to airfields

MANAMA, Bahrain, May 4 (AP): The US government is negotiating with Oman over the extension of a 10-year agreement allowing it to use airfield facilities in the strategic Strait of Hormuz region, Western diplomatic sources said Wednesday.

The agreement expires in June.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the agreement's renewal was "largely a matter of protocol." Negotiations were continuing following the last round of bilateral talks held in the Omani capital, Muscat in March, they added.

"It is a fact that the US-Omani access agreement and an associated memorandum of understanding are being renewed.

It is an uncontroversial renewal with no intention on either side for changes," said an Omani-based Western diplomat.

The sources stressed the agreement provided only for US access to airfields, and could not be interpreted as an alliance.

The sources said the renewal was welcomed by Britain, Oman's principal arms supplier and whose own security co-operation with the oil-rich, conservative sultanate is described as "deep and long-standing."

Oman is located on the southeastern corner of the Arabian peninsula, by the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow entrance to the Arabian Gulf. Oil-export terminals in the Gulf handle one sixth of the world's oil.

The original agreement, signed on June 4, 1980, granted US military forces access to the airfield on Masirah island off Oman's eastern coast, 650 kilometres (400 miles) from the strait. Monsoon winds make Masirah unreachable by ship four months a year.

The agreement also gave the United States access to mainland air bases at Thumrait in southern Oman and at Seeb, 45 kilometres (28 miles) west of the capital.

The accord, provides for US access "in circumstances where both countries would benefit," without differentiating between peace and wartime.

Under the terms of the agreement the

United States has carried out substantial military construction to upgrade Omani airfield facilities, which remain the property of the Omani government.

The agreement was first initiated when Washington was looking for Middle East facilities for its Rapid Deployment Force.

The RDP was subsequently converted into the Florida-based Central Command which controlled the US Navy warships rushed to the Gulf at the height of the 8-year Iran-Iraq war to protect international shipping.

Fighting in the war came to an end through the implementation of a UN-sponsored ceasefire in August 1988.

Jasser may run

(Continued from Page 1)

Thursday breaking a three-day lull in registration in that constituency.

A candidate refused to submit his papers yesterday morning because there were no reporters around. "I'll come tomorrow when reporters are here," he said.

Following are the names of the candidates who registered on the fourth and fifth days:

1st constituency — Sharq

Midhi Ahmed Al Midhi

3rd constituency — Qibla

Fahed Abdul Rahman Al Obaid

4th constituency — Da'yah

Jassim Mohamed Jon'a

5th constituency — Qadsiya

Khalid Mahmoud Jawhar Hayat

6th constituency — Faitha

Mohamed Salem Al Huwaidi; Ahmed Fahed Al Jusoor; Khalid Abdulla Al Misfir; Suliman Abdulla Al Mutawa; Ibrahim Abdulla Al Mutawa

8th constituency — Hawalli

Ali Souhaib Al Zink; Abdul Majeed Hussain Al Kout; Jawad Ali Matrouk; Abdul Gani Abdulla Abdul Gani; Abdul Rahman Mohamed Al Kandari

9th constituency — Rowda

Yousef Khalid Al Khoudar

10th constituency — Adaliya

Mohamed Saeed Abdulla; Mohamed Jassim Al Khanfar

11th constituency — Khaldiya

Khalid Sabti Al Tamimi; Naser Jassem Al Awad

12th constituency — Salmiya

Thayyan Ali Al Outhaim

13th constituency — Rumaihiya

Kathem Abbas Shihab; Eid Abdulla Bin Eid

14th constituency — Araqa Khatan

Awad Salem Al Mzayen

15th constituency — Farwaniya

Zaid Thayeb Al Mutairi; Eid Mohamed Al Rasheed; Mraishid Abdulla Al Rasheed; Fahad Ali Al Masaib; Salem Turki Al Mjaweb

16th constituency — Omaniya

Hadi Moutak Al Rasheed

17th constituency — Jleeb Al Shuyukh

Mohamed Al Haimaidi; Ali Odwani; Mohamed Daifullah Shar

18th constituency — Sulaibikhat

Sayah Shayeb Bou Sheeba

19th constituency — New Jahra

Soush Amash Al Saeedi; Mohamed Mshari Al Rafsi; Mijed Mohamed Al Muzairi; Barkash Khalid Al Jinaifi; Fahed Faraj Al Inzei

20th constituency — Jahra

Nayef Mohamed Al Inzei; Moutalaq Mbarak Al Rowai'i

21st constituency — Ahmad

Masoud Faid Al Ajmi; Rashed Fahed Al Ajmi; Abdulla Saad Al Ajmi; Mahdi Hassan Al Ajmi; Fahed Mahdi Al Ajmi

22nd constituency — Riqqa

Jandal Muhami Al Azemi; Mishal Abdulla Al Ajmi; Nahbar Baddah Al Munir; Ayed Matar Al Azemi; Mirdas Abdulla Al Ajmi

23rd constituency — Sabahiya

Jamran Moutlaq Al Otaibi; Mohamed Moutlaq Al Azemi

24th constituency — Fahheel

Mbarak Obaid Al Doussari; Rashed Ragyan Al Shraieb; Mohamed Fahed Al Dabous; Fahel Falah Al Azemi

25th constituency — Umm Al Haiman

Awad Salem Al Azemi; Saad Haji Al Azemi; Moutlaq Hussain Al Jouwaisi

Reckless driver nicked

THE CRIMINAL Court sentenced a man to three months in jail with hard labour, but gave him the option of a suspended sentence against a bail of KD 100 following the withdrawal of the suspect's driving licence for three months.

The court heard that the suspect was driving his six-wheeler recklessly when he approached an interchange. Instead of stopping to give right of way to the victim's minibus, he drove on forcing the minibus to crash into a lamp-post.

The incident resulted in injuries sustained by the driver of the minibus and the death of the passenger.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

ANYONE can sympathize with the suffering of a friend, but it requires a very fine nature to sympathize with a friend's success — Oscar Wilde, Irish-born writer (1854-1900).

China cautious Hanoi wants normal ties

KUNMING, China. (Reuters): During the Vietnam war, when Beijing supported Hanoi's communist forces, Chinese leaders often used the ancient proverb "Close as lips and teeth" to describe relations with their ally.

Years of hostility after Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia in 1978 and a border less in 1979 fractured the links.

Now Hanoi, weary of its Cambodian foray and eager to get its economy in gear, is keen to normalise ties.

Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Dinh Nho Liem arrived in Beijing on Tuesday for talks on restoring bilateral ties.

Liem, who made two visits to China last year in an effort to normalise relations, told reporters at Beijing airport he was optimistic about his scheduled week-long visit, which would include talks on Cambodia.

Relations

"I am here to contribute to the normalisation of relations between the two countries," said Liem. "With efforts by both sides we are always optimistic."

He was expected to discuss Cambodia's future internal political alignment, an issue Hanoi has avoided in past talks with China.

Diplomats in Beijing said this was a further sign of Hanoi's interest in easing friction over Cambodia. But China has moved ahead cautiously.

If there is one place in China where the benefits of rapprochement are being weighed it is in Yunnan, this southwestern province which shares a lengthy border with China's former ally.

The guns on both sides have long since fallen silent. Where the two countries once traded artillery salvos, they now exchange less lethal merchandise — clothes, hot-water bottles and food.

In recent years a 20-km (12-mile) wide strip along the border has been opened to Vietnamese who are permitted to cross over to trade at five officially sanctioned markets in the province.

Normal

"Relations haven't returned to normal yet so we can't set up more," Zhu Chenghua, an official at Yunnan's Economic Commission, said in an interview in the provincial capital of Kunming.

"But if relations improve, of course, we would benefit more than other parts of China."

The friendship bridge linked the town of Hekou in Yunnan to Lao Gai in Vietnam before it was damaged in the 1979 border war. Trains carry supplies across the border to help North Vietnamese communists wage war against the capitalist south and its American allies.

"If the railway is put back in service, it would help. It would be in both our interests," said Zhu.

There are no figures for the value of border trade between the two communist states. It is conducted mainly by private traders, and in economies that rely on state planning, free market business is relatively minor.

Beijing has imposed restrictions on trade. Vietnamese who cross into China can buy only 30 yuan (\$6.35) worth of goods on each trip, according to Chinese officials.

China refuses to sell goods, like cotton, deemed to have strategic value, and it does not permit its citizens into Vietnam.

While Beijing takes a cautious view of trade with Vietnam, it is putting out the welcome mat for Hanoi's ally, Laos.

"Laos has been the back door to restoring ties with Vietnam," said a Western diplomat in Beijing.

Co-operation

The mayor of Vientiane visited Kunming in April, only a few days after the Laotian deputy minister of transport called on Yunnan officials to discuss a joint survey of the Mekong river to make it navigable to bigger boats and possible co-operation on road improvements.

Co-operation between the two countries in coal and tin mining is also under discussion. A trade arm of the Yunnan government is expected to set up an office in Vientiane soon and Laos may open an office in Kunming.

"The message to Vietnam is that if you are nice to us — like Laos, there may be rewards for you too," said a diplomat.

So far, the big rewards have eluded Hanoi. While Vietnam says it has withdrawn its troops from Cambodia, China insists this is a sham.

Beijing continues to arm the Khmer Rouge, who were toppled from power by invading Vietnamese troops and are now the strongest of the three guerrilla factions fighting the pro-Hanoi government in Phnom Penh.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1525 — Peasants' revolt in south Germany is suppressed.

1537 — German Lutherans refuse to accept Pope Paul III's invitation to attend a general council.

1570 — Turkey declares war on Venice for refusing to surrender Cyprus, and Spain comes to Venice's aid.

1646 — British forces under King Charles I surrender to Scots at Newark, England.

1762 — Russia and Prussia sign treaty of St Petersburg, under which Russia restores all conquests and forms defensive and offensive alliance.

1821 — France's Napoleon Bonaparte dies in exile on island of St Helena.

1824 — British troops take over Rangoon, Burma.

1931 — People's national convention in Nanking, China, adopts provisional constitution.

1936 — Italian forces occupy Addis Ababa, ending Abyssinian (Ethiopian) war.

1961 — Astronaut Alan Shepard Jr, first US space explorer, is rocketed 185 kilometres into space from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

1963 — Algeria's foreign minister Mohammed Khemisti dies three weeks after being wounded by assassin's bullet.

1964 — Israel announces that first water is flowing from its new pipeline from Sea of Galilee to Negev desert, despite Arab objections to the project.

1978 — Red Brigades in Italy announce they are carrying out death sentence against former premier Aldo Moro, whose body is found two days later.

1988 — French assault team storms cave in French Pacific territory of Noumea, New Caledonia, and frees 22 gendarmes and prosecutor held hostage by Melanesian separatists.

1989 — Estonia's Communist Party removes 22 party leaders in sweep that gives greater strength to reformers.

GLOBAL WARMING CONFERENCE



European fears assuaged

Kohl assumes important role

DUBLIN, Ireland. (AP): As German unification rapidly approaches, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has assumed an increasingly important role on the international stage.

Once viewed as an affable politician merely playing to the large conservative bloc in his nation, Kohl is probably the single most important voice in the 12-nation European Economic Community.

During Saturday's summit in Dublin, the EEC said it "warmly welcomes" joining of the two German states. That declaration in large part reflects the efforts by Kohl's government to dispel recent European jitters.

Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey, the current EEC president, took the extraordinary step of inviting the 60-year-old Kohl to share the spotlight at the community's final news conference.

Dominated

Kohl, who dominated the briefing, called the EEC's full support of German unification a "historic hour."

The Kohl taking centre stage didn't go unnoticed in France, which has long prided itself on being the driving intellectual force behind the European Economic Community. There was even some grumbling.

"It was still in good taste, even a few months ago, to depict Helmut Kohl as a man with limited talents — as a provincial politician," said the influential Le Monde newspaper of Paris on Saturday.

"Today, people are starting to suspect him of wanting to carve up his neighbours and dominate the continent," the newspaper continued.

Kohl firmly rejects such assertions. He says a unified Germany with a combined population of nearly 80 million will serve the interests of the community.

The chancellor has undertaken a close collaboration with French President Francois Mitterrand on achieving political union.

That has left British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher even more firmly embedded in her role as the community's sceptical naysayer.

After he became chancellor in 1982, Kohl's frequent repetitions of the call by his Christian Democratic Union for a united Germany were often dismissed as fanciful dreaming.

Then came 1989 and the collapse of hardline communist governments across Eastern Europe. The political transformation included the downfall of Erich Honecker, Kohl's longtime nemesis as communist leader in East Berlin.

Control

A little more than four months after the Berlin Wall began to crumble on Nov. 9, East Germans had given a Kohl-backed coalition firm control of government in East Berlin.

EEC welcomes unification

DUBLIN, (Reuters): Decried only weeks ago as a reckless nationalist, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has succeeded in winning almost unanimous foreign approval for rapid German unification.

The European Economic Community warmly welcomed German unity on Saturday, joining a growing line of world leaders hailing Kohl's plan for one of the biggest upheavals post-war Europe has seen.

The United States and the Soviet Union, the two superpowers who built up their post-war military machines on the premise of a divided Germany, had already given the green light.

Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, who in their collective communist pasts regularly denounced German nationalism, have also given unity as a natural and healthy development.

Bonn has worked long and hard to convince its neighbours — all faced with a "German question" at the beginning, middle and now the end of this century — that the new state will be a reliable friend rather than a Fourth Reich.

Commitment

At the same time, it has steered clear of acrimonious debates by stressing its commitment to Europe, so much so that West Germany and its EEC ally France deftly turned what was supposed to be a special summit on unification into one on European political union.

"I believe the (EEC) partners have

recognised that German unification will not create problems but will heal a deep wound, namely the division of Europe," West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said on Sunday.

"For someone who is usually portrayed as a right in China shop, Kohl has handled unification very well," one European diplomat commented.

"He has made sure that everyone is on his side so he has a free hand to proceed."

However, some are less enthusiastic than others.

The Kremlin, set to lose some influence abroad and prestige at home with the division it imposed after the World War II is reversed, accepts unity but wants Germany outside of NATO.

Warsaw is still nervous about its western border, drawn after the war to include German territory. Several groups, ranging from internationalists to many Jews and others who suffered under the Nazis, remain firmly opposed to unity.

Although EEC leaders have expressed confidence unification would not upset their economies, they have yet to convince all the sceptics that they can escape the need for higher interest rates to contain the inflationary impact of monetary union between East and West Germany as the target date of July 2 approaches.

Conditions

At their Strasbourg summit last December, EEC leaders hedged their

support for unification with strict conditions that betrayed a deep mistrust of what the Germans might be up to.

They included blunt reminders — embarrassing for West Germans who have spent the past 40 years in Western political, economic and defence alliances — that the unification process must be democratic and peaceful.

Other countries, especially France, were quick to criticise Kohl in March when his legalistic refusal to recognise Poland's Western border made it look as if he would not stand up to a right-wing minority seeking to reclaim Germany lands beyond it.

But once Kohl supported a plan to guarantee the borders, the issue — the most controversial so far in the German rush to unity — retreated into the background.

Mindful of how sensitive the unity question is, Bonn will have to keep up its diplomatic efforts for many months to come.

Its next test comes today, when the two German foreign ministers and their colleagues from the four World War II victors — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France — meet in Bonn to start mapping out future security arrangements for a united Germany.

These "two-plus-four" talks aim to find a compromise acceptable to all sides by late this year, when it will be presented to the 35-nation conference on security and co-operation in Europe.

The chancellor travelled to Brussels on March 9 to assuage fears among Nato allies about German unification.

Interests

"German interests must be taken into account, but also the interests of all our friends and partners and neighbours in East and West must be taken into account," Kohl said.

While Kohl is riding high for the time being, speculation is rising about how he will fare in the upcoming national elections, scheduled for Dec. 2.

Many West Germans are worried about the staggering costs of unification, and Kohl has been unable to ease fears that a tax increase will be needed to finance unification.

Taiwan chooses military premier

TAIPEI, (Reuters): Taiwan's President may have hoped to consolidate his power with the surprise choice of a military man as premier, but analysts on Thursday said the plan may backfire and Lee Teng-Hui may end up a figurehead.

Lee on Wednesday stunned Taiwan by nominating Defence Minister Hau Pei-Tsun, a four-star general who last December stepped down as the island's longest-serving chief of general staff, as premier.

Since martial law ended in 1987, Taiwan's people had grown used to steady democratic reforms and the diminishment of the military. Before the announcement, analysts and the local press were unanimous in predicting the appointment of a politician, and Hau's name was not mentioned even in jest.

Compromise

Analysts said Lee was forced to choose Hau as a compromise to calm fiercely competing factions within the ruling Nationalist Party that threatened the position of the president, a man without a power base or ties to the ministry.

"Lee failed to keep his personal power because he had such a very bad relationship with party bureaucrats and the military," said Li Fu, a Taiwan University professor with close relations both with the government and opposition.

"Lee sacrificed the establishment of institutional democracy... the danger is having a 'strong man,' and inciting conflict with students and intellectuals. There could be trouble later," he said.

Taiwan's first native-born president, Lee was elected to a new term in his own right in March and will be inaugurated on May 20.

"Lee may think he can control Hau but most people think Hau, with his military background, will control Lee," said Lin Chia-Cheng, a political scientist at Soochow University.

Some analysts said Lee hoped Hau, with his background and power outside the political arena, would be less of a threat than the incumbent premier, Lee Huan, a consummate politician.

"Hau is regarded by many people as a strong figure but politically he is not very sophisticated. Lee can play his own game," said Lu Ya-Li, a Taiwan University political scientist.

The current premier, no relation to the president, and his cabinet will resign on May 10, officials said on Thursday.

Hau's well-known conservative views could alienate the island's 80 per cent native-born majority.

Hau fled to Taiwan with the Nationalist government after the communist victory in China in 1949, and has strongly attacked any move toward "Taiwan independence," saying the island's only future is reunification with the mainland.

Taiwan officially considers itself the legitimate government of China, and Parliament is dominated by ageing legislators who only faced the voters once, on the mainland 43 years ago.

Opportunity

"We had a good opportunity for parliamentary or constitutional reform. It's hard to see Hau doing that," Lin said.

Nationalist Party officials said Lee chose a man who would act decisively on problems of crime and stalled legislation — 37 major bills still await parliamentary approval, part of a backlog of more than 300 legislative acts.

But the island's fledgling opposition party immediately promised to fight the appointment in Parliament, which must approve new premier.

The opposition's 23 members in the 269-seat Parliament wield power by filibustering and fighting, even when they cannot win votes.

ARAB TIMES, SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1990

Poland

Lone reformer tackles militia

WARSAW, (Reuters): Somewhere in the vast archives of Poland's secret police, there is probably a thick dossier on the man who is trying to reform it.

But Krzysztof Kozlowski hasn't found it yet, and he has more important things to worry about.

The former opposition journalist, who became deputy interior minister last month, faces the formidable task of overhauling the security apparatus that propped up four decades of communism in Poland.

"There are quite a lot of people in this building who were responsible for quite terrible things," Kozlowski, 58, said in an interview.

"The police was so

MIDEAST

Kabul launches major offensive

ISLAMABAD, May 4. (Agencies): Hundreds of Afghan government troops and tanks backed by jetfighters seized several positions from the US-backed Afghan resistance in a massive offensive near the strategic eastern city of Jalalabad, rebel sources said yesterday.

Meanwhile, US-Soviet talks on ending the conflict in Afghanistan concluded there should be election supervision by the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Conference, the New York Times reported.

The Times said US officials and Pakistani diplomats disclosed that Moscow would accept elections to choose a new government in Kabul and Washington would let Najibullah run in the elections if he resigned the presidency first.

It said the Soviet Union had dropped its demand that Najibullah be guaranteed a role in the future elected government.

In the assault, rebel sources in Pakistan said the forces of the pro-Soviet government killed three commanders and several other mujahedeen. The assault, launched Monday night northeast of Jalalabad, 70 miles (112 km) east of Kabul, occurred along a main road leading to rebel bases in neighbouring Pakistan.

Official Kabul radio said troops killed 110 rebels in a "retaliatory action" Tuesday against rebels who attempted to attack Jalalabad, which is held by government forces. It gave no further details.

The rebel sources said the government was attempting to recapture positions seized by the rebels early last year, before the Feb. 15, 1989, withdrawal of Soviet troops that backed the communist regime of President Najibullah.

The mujahedeen, based in Pakistan and backed by the United States and Saudi Arabia, hold about 90 per cent of Afghanistan's territory but have failed to capture any major urban centres despite the Soviet pullout.

Najibullah has defied Western predictions of his swift overthrow by the rebels following the Soviet withdrawal.

Jalalabad was the scene of a massive offensive by the mujahedeen in March last year. The operation ended several weeks later in a bloody and humiliating defeat for the rebels.

The Afghan government will convene a grand tribal assembly this month to discuss ending the 11-year civil war, government sources said yesterday.

Selective Baghdad embargo on Britain

LONDON, May 4. (Agencies): Iraq has imposed an unofficial selective embargo on British companies in retaliation for Britain's seizure of parts for a "supergun," the Middle East Economic Digest (Meed) reported yesterday.

So far the ban applies to British firms involved mainly in the military and industrial sectors, the magazine said.

Meed said British firms registered in Iraq were asked to a meeting at Baghdad's industry and military industrialisation ministry yesterday and told the ministers would place no more contracts with British suppliers until the issue was resolved.

The weekly magazine, in an article to be published May 4, quoted the ministry's senior under-secretary, Abdul Majid Al Anan, as telling British business that London's intervention against contracts placed with British suppliers was making it difficult to plan development incorporating their goods.

Meed said no official statement was ever made and that the ministry had said it did not know if other ministries would follow suit.

The London-based magazine quoted some British firms as saying that other ministries and private sector businesses have been told not to make contracts with Britain unless there was no alternative.

Some reports suggest Baghdad is stopping Iraqis from travelling to Britain for training, the magazine added.

The managing director of a company that manufactured parts for a suspected Iraqi "supergun" project appeared in court yesterday on charges of violating a British arms embargo.

Peter V. Mitchell, 42, managing director of Walter Somers Ltd., appeared briefly before a magistrate and was released on surety of £25,000 (\$40,000).

Turkish Prime Minister Yilmaz Akbulut opened a three-day official visit to Iraq tomorrow at a time when relations between two countries are strained over the use of Euphrates river waters.

Security Council remains inconclusive on Jewish influx

UNITED NATIONS, May 4. (Agencies): A Palestinian spokesman yesterday told the Security Council it had a duty to make sure Israel respected its international obligations and not repeatedly postpone action critical of the Jewish state.

Zuhdi Labib Terzi, representative of the Palestine Observer Mission, was addressing the sixth session of a debate initiated on March 15 following Arab fears that Moscow's emigration policies could result in thousands of Jewish settlers in Israeli-occupied territories.

He chided the Security Council's foot-

dragging on a draft resolution that would call for a halt in massive Soviet-Jewish emigration to Palestine.

The draft, said Terzi, has been going around for weeks and there is no certainty that it ever will be acted upon.

Terzi called attention to recent reports that the number of Jewish immigrants to Israel has hit a new record, that 30,000 Soviet Jews have immigrated to Israel since the beginning of the year and that the budget will increase to accommodate 120,000 immigrants in 1990.

He also pointed out the United States is considering a \$400 million housing

loan to Israel, but needs guarantees that the funds will not be used for settlements in the occupied territories.

But Terzi contended, "the supply of \$400 million would be encouragement to the government of Israel to establish more settlements."

Diplomats said everyone was waiting for Washington, which prefers not to have any resolution, to decide whether to enter negotiations on a final document or veto whatever draft may be put to a vote.

Terzi also said the United Nations should "establish a mechanism" to monitor human rights violations in the

occupied territories at close range.

Waiting for a government to be established in Israel seemed to be "drugging" the council in examining a draft resolution that "had been going around for weeks," he said.

Greece and Egypt also used yesterday's debate to condemn other Israeli actions, including the government's support for Jewish settlers who moved into a building in the Christian quarter of occupied Jerusalem's Old City.

Egyptian ambassador Amr Moussa made a special plea to Israel to put an end to its practices against Palestinians

and sit down and negotiate.

● United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar yesterday criticised Israel for not allowing the UN to play the mediator role in solving the deadlocked Middle East problem, and condemned settlement of Soviet Jews in occupied Arab territories.

"Israel rejects to co-operate with the (UN) organisation for the sake of peace in the Middle East," said Cuellar in response to questions from Kuwait News Agency following a meeting he held with Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock.

Turkish forces kill 23 Kurds

ANKARA, May 4. (AP): Security forces killed 23 suspected Kurdish guerrillas in two clashes in southeastern and eastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported today.

The despatch said three village guards were also killed during the fighting yesterday.

Anatolia said 17 guerrillas were killed in Sirnak township near the Iraqi border in one of the largest anti-guerrilla operations in the region since fighting started in 1984. It added that security forces seized seven machine-guns and a rocket launcher.

In another clash in Dilekli village of Yokusova township, local guards fired on a group of Kurdish guerrillas, killing one, the report said. Three guards were killed.

Anatolia also reported that security forces killed five guerrillas in the eastern province of Kars. No other details were given.

The guerrillas belong to the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), a Marxist group fighting to establish an independent Kurdistan in Turkey's southeastern provinces.

The PKK has camps in neighbouring Syria, Iraq and Iran, security officials said.

The government last month adopted new security measures to fight Kurdish unrest in the southeast. The government restricted news coverage of incidents in the region and increased the powers of the regional governor in charge of the 11 provinces where fighting continue.

The measures came after demonstrations by local residents in support of PKK.

● A state security court today released two Turkish communist leaders arrested in November 1987 upon their arrival from exile in West Germany.

Nihat Sargin, 64, secretary-general of the outlawed Turkish Labour Party, and Haydar Kulin, 46, secretary-general of the Turkish Communist Party in exile, are standing trial on charges of attempting to stage a communist revolution in Turkey.

● Arsonists have attacked Turkish consulates in the Netherlands' two cities, police said today.

A group calling itself the Leftist Revolutionary Forces claimed responsibility for the attack last night, which caused superficial damage to the consulates in Rotterdam and in the eastern Dutch city of Deventer.

Shamir rejects Mubarak remarks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 4. (Reuters): Israel has criticised Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for blaming Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for a halt in progress towards a Middle East peace settlement.

Mr Shamir has already stated he remains totally committed to his peace plan and that this plan will be one of the cornerstones of the government he will form, Avi Pazer, a ministerial adviser to the prime minister, said yesterday.

"We don't believe that such criticism as President Mubarak has made is helpful to the cause of peace," he added.

Shamir, leader of the hardline Likud party, is trying to form a narrow government with small extreme rightist parties. He has said he will not accept a US proposal which would lead to first-ever Israeli-Palestinian talks.

Meanwhile, a power struggle at the top of the rival Labour Party erupted after leader Shimon Peres' failure to form a dovish government after five weeks of trying.

The simmering tension between Peres and former defence minister Yitzhak Rabin, who favours forming another national unity government between Labour and Likud, boiled over at a forum of former party ministers.

"I believe the members of the party will choose the one they believe can better bring about results in elections," Rabin said on Israeli television after the meeting in the first public challenge to Peres' party leadership.

Rabin, 68, enforced an iron fist policy against an uprising in the occupied territories when he was defence minister and has been traditionally on better terms with Likud's Shamir than Peres.

Shamir, 74, told the National Religious Party (NRP) yesterday he saw no prospect of forming another national unity government as long as Peres was at the head of the party.

"At present such a (unity) government is impossible because Shimon Peres insists that it must stay to the Baker question," Shamir said at the meeting, adding that it was not possible to wait until any change in leadership occurred.

Libya building new chem plant: report

BONN, May 4. (UPI): A West German magazine alleged today Libya is building a new chemical weapons plant, possibly with West German help.

The weekly illustrated magazine Brute attributed its report to West German intelligence sources. It released a brief report on the plant in advance of a story in its next edition.

Bonito said an underground chemical weapons plant was being constructed at Sabha, 403 miles (650 km) south of the capital of Tripoli.

It gave no details of the involvement of West German firms. It said only the plant was being built "possibly with help of German firms."

"The new poison gas factory is an underground installation," the magazine said.

In March there were reports that another plant at Rabta suspected by the United States of making chemical weapons had been damaged by fire. The reports were not confirmed and some intelligence sources expressed doubt here had been a fire at all.

The sources indicated the report might have been a hoax to avert the possibility of air attacks to destroy the plant.

The head of the West German Tukay construction company confirmed yesterday two of his employees had been detained in Libya, presumably in connection with Libyan allegations West German agents had been responsible for the fire.

Guenther Tukay, the head of the firm, said none of his employees had anything to do with the Rabta plant. He said his firm was active as a subcontractor for large West German firms in Libya. Last year the Bonn government after repeatedly denying US claims West German firms had helped build the Rabta plant finally admitted West German companies had shipped equipment to the Libya plant without the necessary export permits.

Juergen Hippenschild-Imhause, the head of the Imhause Chemie Company, was arrested on charges of breaking export laws.

Khamenei apologises to vice-president

NICOSIA, May 4. (Reuters): Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has apologised for offending a vice-president who advocated direct talks between Iran and Washington.

Ayatollah Mohajerani, vice-president for parliamentary affairs, urged Iran last week to open negotiations with the United States to reap maximum benefit from its role in freezing US hostages.

"We have no need for our own enemies such as America to sympathise with us and we are by no means after breaking talks and establishing relations with it," Khamenei said in a speech on Wednesday.

Ayatollah Khamenei said when he uttered that statement he did not mean to insult Mohajerani and that he owes the vice-president an apology if his comments do sound like an insult, the national Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Khamenei as saying in a note to Mohajerani.

Irael.

"What is convincingly clear from the circumstances involved was whatever was launched from South Africa traces its origins in some sense back to Israel, either by technological co-operation or supply of components or delivery of a whole vehicle."

On the new Chinese missile, the official said Beijing had promised not to sell intermediate-range missiles to the Middle East but had not defined what it meant by intermediate-range or which countries were included in its definition of the Middle East.

Arens, Dimitrov sign accords to promote co-operation

Bulgaria, Israel restore ties



Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens speaks with Bulgarian counterpart Boiko Dimitrov (left) after arriving to re-establish diplomatic relations with



Religious Zionists from the right-wing Moledet Party, carries a Torah scroll on Thursday while ultra-nationalist Jewish settlers

dance and sing as they march to Joseph's tomb, a site holy to both Jews and Muslims. (Reuters photo)

Settlers stir Arab protests

Curfew in Nablus during Jew ceremony

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 4. (UPI): Dancing and singing Israeli settlers surrounded by right-wing lawmakers gathered at a Jewish cemetery in the heart of West Bank's largest city yesterday, stirring Arab protests by their show of support.

The army clamped a curfew on some 16,000 residents of Nablus and the nearby refugee camps in an effort to contain Arab outbursts arising out of fear that Joseph's tomb in Nablus would become the core of the city's first settlement.

It also thwarted settler plans to bring into Nablus 17 busloads of supporters for the gathering in which a new Torah scroll was brought into the cemetery. Only 100 settlers were allowed to take part.

Palestinians view the ceremony as an symbolic increase of Jewish presence in the occupied territories that comes amidst the government's stepped up settlement drive.

Dozens of soldiers stood guard around as the settlers, some with torments sitting on their shoulders, danced with the scroll, carried under a violet, embroidered canopy.

A militant Islamic group urged Palestinians yesterday to launch armed attacks on Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel in what it called a "revolution of the knives."

The Islamic Jihad of Jerusalem, one of four factions of the Islamic Jihad Organisation, issued a leaflet in the occupied territories calling for "a holy war" against Soviet Jews.

Israeli troops yesterday demolished three houses of Palestinians and sealed a fourth one in the vicinity of Ramallah, Radio Israel reported today.

● Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek met with President George Bush yesterday and said afterword he was convinced Bush "has no objection to Jews settling all over Jerusalem without any exception."

The settlers stood in line, singing "the song of

peace," a famous Israeli anti-military song.

Yossi Sarid, a left-wing lawmaker who led the protesters, said the ceremony amounted to a political provocation.

Several hours before the ceremony, soldiers searched Palestinian homes and erected observation posts on rooftops near the cemetery, at the edge of Nablus, Arab witnesses said. A helicopter hovered above and roadblocks were put up around the city to keep out non-residents.

Ghassan Shakaa, a pro-PLO Nablus lawyer, warned in a telephone interview that "a settlement in Nablus will create a new wave of confrontations with the settlers... this proves how the radicals in Israel are working against peace."

Left-wing Israeli joined the outcry. Legislator Dedi Zuckerman said the Nablus ceremony was "part of a much larger picture" of Shamir's increased settlement drive.

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Israel says it has stopped signing new

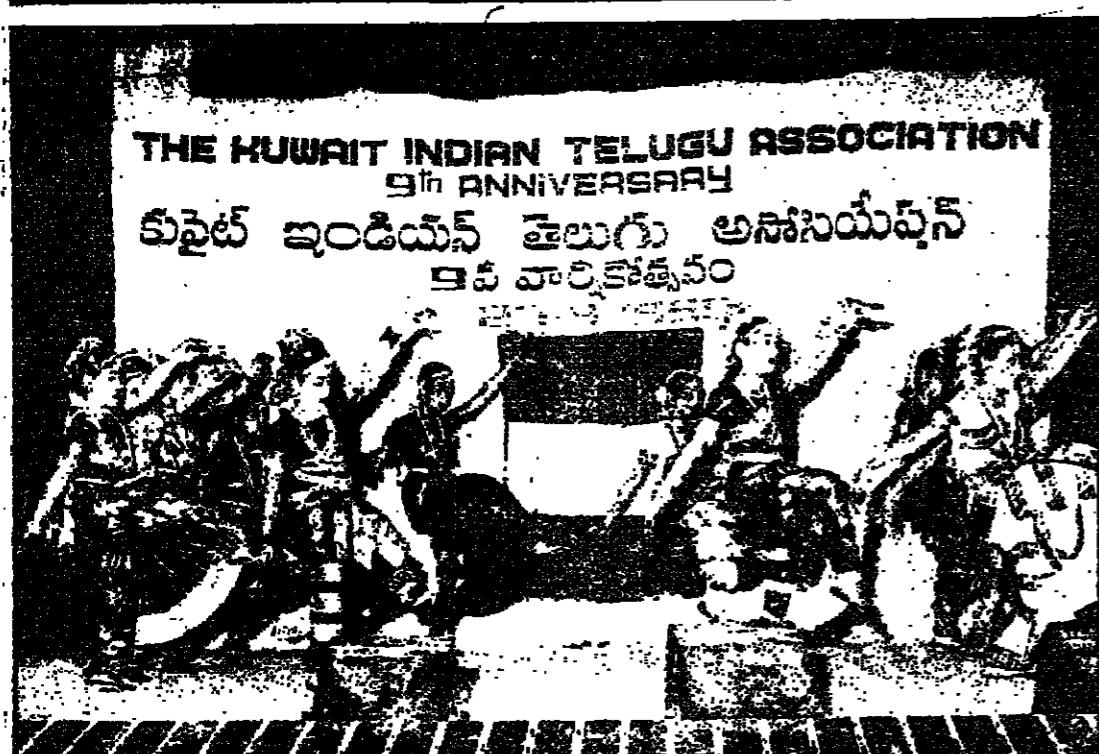
military contracts with South Africa and is merely honouring existing ones. It has denied co-operating with Pretoria on a missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

Last November, John Kelly, US assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, told a congressional committee he could not confirm reports that Israel was helping South Africa develop a ballistic missile, possibly in exchange for weapons-grade plutonium for its own nuclear programme.

EVENTS

ARAB TIMES, SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1990

Kuwait Indian Telugu Association's 9th anniversary



THE KUWAIT INDIAN TELUGU ASSOCIATION
9th ANNIVERSARY
కువైత్ ఇండియన్ టెలుగు అసొసియేషన్
ఎప్ప వారికాట్టు

A group dance by young dancers.

THE Kuwait Indian Telugu Association has organised a spectacular Cultural Programme to commemorate its 9th anniversary at 4pm on April 27, 1990 at Sharq Co-operative Society's Auditorium. The programme has been inaugurated by the chief guest Arun Kumar Budhiraja, ambassador of India to

Kuwait.

The Kuwait Indian Telugu Association is for 5000 (approx) the Indian Telugu-speaking people living in Kuwait from all walks of life. Since then the association has organised many cultural programmes to entertain the Telugu community in Kuwait and made generous contributions towards the welfare of the poor

promote the welfare of the Telugu community in Kuwait as well as in Andhra Pradesh, India in social and cultural fields. Since then the association has organised many cultural programmes to entertain the Telugu community in Kuwait and made generous contributions towards the welfare of the poor

'Radha Krishna' dance by Ranjani and Punya.

people back at home by giving financial assistance, clothes to poor students and donating sewing machines to women welfare institutions and also raising funds for "Chief Minister's Relief Fund" for flood victims.

Following the inauguration, the variety entertainment programme has started with a



A view of the audience with Abdul Khalique (third from right) First Secretary of Indian Embassy and Mrs Abdul Khalique (fourth from right)

prayer song and dance. The folk dance and song "Telugu Jaathi Manad" was the highlight of the evening which propagates the regional integrity of Telugu people. Various classical, semi-classical dance were performed by young artists of "Naarthana" and mono acts were also presented to make the

programme more colourful. The prizes to the participants were distributed by Mr Abdul Khalique, First Secretary at the Indian Embassy in Kuwait. The events were well organised.

The programme was concluded with national anthem.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Islamic Art

We have the pleasure to announce the opening of the "Masterpieces of Islamic art from the Hermitage and from the Daghestan Museum" to which you are cordially invited on Tuesday May 1, 1990 at 5.00 pm at Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyah.

The exhibition will be on display daily (except Saturdays) from May 1 until May 31, 1990.

Boushari Gallery

An exhibition of paintings by eight Arab artists will be held at the Boushari Gallery, North Salma Bldg, Salem Al Mubarak St, from May 7. The month-long exhibition is being held under the patronage of Dr Hassan Ali Ibrahim. Some of the artists who will exhibit their works include Jaafar Islah, Jafar Kaki, Rashed Diyab, Dia Al Azzawi and Saleh Jame' et. It will be open to the public for a month. Timings: 9 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 7.30 pm.

SOCIAL

Saligacars

CALLING all Saligacars... to respond to the call for a social gathering on May 25 at Ramada Al Salam, at 11.30 am. For details contact the following: Justin Fernandes on Tel No. 2406936 (Res), Aloo Carvalho, 2411442 Res. 246121, Cedric D'Mello, Res. 3986469 and Paul D'Cruz, Res. 2444729. Tony Cordeiro off. 2415401, Res. 2412337.

LIL May meeting

COME enjoy our meeting this month at the Holiday Inn in the ballroom on Monday, May 7, 1990.

Our programme this month is a traditional Middle Eastern wedding demonstration which promises to be fun and exciting. Doors open - 6.00pm. Doors close - 7.30pm. Programme starts - 8.30pm sharp.

For further information contact Barbara - 5325131.

German-Speaking Cultural Association

THE next coffee morning for German-speaking ladies will be held at 10 am on Sunday, May 6, at the Kuwait International Hotel. Latest information and plans would be announced. All German-speakers are requested to make an effort to attend. All are welcome.

Garden Fete

Hyderabad Festival Committee announces the holding of a garden fete on Friday, May 11, Messiah Beach Resort. It will be open to all families. Hyderabad food, magic show, games and a lot of fun is promised for families. A fancy dress competition is also proposed. Parents of children below 12 who wish to take part in the event can register children's name on 5619071, Mr. Khan.

Ladies International League SUMMER bazaar: Regency Palace Hotel, Friday May 11, from 10 am to 6.00 pm. Something for everyone. See you there.

Cosmos Summer Nite

KUWAIT Cosmos Hockey Club presents Cosmos Summer Nite, an open-air event of the decade on May 10, 1990 at 21.00 hrs until dawn at the lush green lawns of the Hunting and Equestrian Club (by the poolside). Music by The Hurricane & The Equalisers. Highlights: "Cosmos Summer Nite special"; "Novelty dance"; "Table surprises"; "Ballroom competition"; "Live exhibition of the famous Brazilian "Lambada" performed by the team of the Kuwait India Festival. Plenty of gifts in store inclusive of air tickets and not forgetting the aroma of an exotic buffet prepared by exclusively Indian chefs.

Come one, come all — pick your invitation and make your table reservations from the undermentioned members: Fortes - 4741727 (R); Dama - 5623621 (R); Vincent - 4887140 (R).

Guardian Angel Club

The Guardian Angel Club take great pleasure in announcing their Konkani drama entitled "Ostorecho Mog" (Woman's Love) directed by Remmie J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC. Goan Charlie Chaplin, Jancito Vaz, Ophelia, H. Britton and Sebby Coutinho are among the other well known Goan cast.

Daniella Dhow Trip FOR reasons beyond the control of the Daniella Club, the Dhow trip for Dames has been postponed till Friday, May 18, at 10 am. For reservations call Jytte Tel. 2449610 before May 5.

Hyderabad

Friday (May 11, 1990), Messiah Beach Resort, 3.00 pm — Once in a life time chance to taste and enjoy delicious and mouthwatering dishes. Games, lucky draw and magic show for children. Prize distribution.

Thursday (May 17, 1990), Carlton Tower Hotel, Fahd Al Salem St. 8.00 pm — Highlighting the golden era of Hyderabad followed by a grand Mushaira by guest and local poets and release of souvenirs.

Friday (May 18, 1990), Starlite theatre, Entertainment City (Doha), Kuwait. 5.00 pm — Valedictory function and musical night of ghazals by invite artists from Hyderabad and local artists, light music and many more items.

Sponsors: Mohd Hoshdar Khan, Mohd Shaheen H. Khan.

For further details and information please contact: General information: Mohmmed Fasi-huddin Chand, Tel: 2402603-5659647; Mohmmed Naserudin, Tel: 4736958. Sports: Dr Naidu, Tel: 4842578; Karim Idan, Tel: 3716247. Musical programme: Dr Shakeel Khan, Tel: 5317885; Shahnoor Khan, Tel: 5644539. Souvenir: N. Nizamuddin Ahmed, Tel: 4745537; Zakuddin, Tel: 2428105; Mohamad H. Khan, Tel: 2402019. Literary: Dr Sami Khan, Tel: 4811514; Ebtesham Uddin, Tel: 2463116. Sponsors: Mohd Hoshdar Khan, Mohd Shaheen H. Khan.

ACT's production of "Voyages", an evening of words and music about travel, will be presented one night only at the Mousetrap Theatre, New English School on Thursday, May 10, 1990. The date has been extended at the popular demand because many interested students were unable to participate in the competition due to examinations and later beginning of the Holy month of Ramadan.

The essay competition on the topic "My role in building a better Pakistan" is being held on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Pakistan resolution. Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays in Urdu or English, which should be between 1,000 to 1,500 words.

Four prizes of KD100 each (2 each for Urdu and English) will be awarded to the best articles in each group with other consolation prizes for deserving participants. The panel of judges includes: Dr M. I. Saleem, Dr Ali Jaffrey and Abdus Sattar Ghazali.

Essays may be mailed to: APPROB, P.O. Box 2351, Salma - Kuwait - 22024. For further details, contact: 2425315, Fax: 5327571.

Konkeni Theatre

MAY 10-11: Roseferns and his 15 member troupe arrive from Goa to present two Konkani dramas namely new release Xinxie at 7 pm (May 10) and repeated at 4 pm (May 11) and diamond jubilee completed Beiman Tum at 10.30 am on May 11 at Granada Cinema, Khetian. Contrary to reports circulating, THIS IS NOT A LOCAL SHOW and Roseferns popularly known as Goa's King of Centuries should not be mistaken for one local identical namesake in Kuwait. Tickets available at Raja Stores Tel: 2412970, Tony 5655056, Wilson 3726038, Manuel/Rommel 4816836, Rocky 3924159, Val 5614506

Canary Video 2459521 and Alex Martins. An Expatriate Club presentation.

Konkani non-stop show

A Konkani non-stop show entitled Koxti Ani Santos (Hardships & Happiness), writ-

ten and directed by Epa de Utorda, organised by Utorda Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3.30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Labour.

For more information contact 4817857.

Hyderabad

The Committee for Celebrations of 400-year Anniversary of Hyderabad (DECCEN) invites essays in either Urdu, Telugu or English languages in not less than 1000 words on one of the following topics: 1. Quli Qutub Shah — the Architect of Hyderabad; 2. Contribution of Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan towards modern Hyderabad; 3. Hyderabad City as I saw her for school students only.

The competition is open to all present and former Hyderabadi and their children residing in Kuwait.

A panel of judges will judge the first, second and third prize winning entries, and the prizes and citations will be distributed before the audience at 400-year anniversary celebrations to be held sometime in May 1990.

All entries must be neatly written or typed on A4 size paper in double space, and reach the committee on or before April 30, 1990 and addressed to the Convenor Literary Committee, PO Box 23343, Safat, 13094, Kuwait. No entry fee is charged.

Approb essay competition

ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen has again extended the last date of its essay competition from 15th April to 31st May, 1990. The date has been extended at the popular demand because many interested students were unable to participate in the competition due to examinations and later beginning of the Holy month of Ramadan.

The essay competition on the topic "My role in building a better Pakistan" is being held on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Pakistan resolution. Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays in Urdu or English, which should be between 1,000 to 1,500 words.

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Essays may be mailed to: APPROB, P.O. Box 2351, Salma - Kuwait - 22024. For further details, contact: 2425315, Fax: 5327571.

Indian Cuisine Centre

Indian art of fancied lac bangles and designful henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant.

Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

HOTELS

Kuwait International Hotel

FAILAKA: Offers a celebration menu. Promises to be a

gourmet's delight. Special

Arabic appetizer and desert

buffet with a choice of soups

and main courses. Live entertainment too.

LA PALMA: Eid gala

brunch buffet for lunch and

extensive Arabic buffet for dinner with oriental band.

LA PALMA POOL: Surpr-

ise barbecue for lunch with jazz band.

GARDEN POOL: Superb Kubli Khan Mongolian barbecue. Mix and match your lunch while it is prepared according to your palate.

LA PATISSERIE: Oriental sweets buffet with tea and coffee. Plenty of take-away too.

CHILDREN'S CORNER: Star of the show "AFL" will land with his spaceship at the Mickey International Games. Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Kiddie Castle will provide non-stop excitement from 12 noon to 3.00 pm.

All details at: 2530000 ext. 8039 or 8040.

Kuwait Sheraton

RICCARDO Restaurant: The Riccardo restaurant with its famous Italian cuisine will be open for lunch and live entertainment with "Franco and Regina" every night.

Hunt Room: The famous Hunt Room restaurant offers some of the best meat and fish preparation for lunch and dinner with live entertainment nightly.

Le Tarboche: Open for lunch and dinner. Le Tarboche offers a wide selection of hot and cold buffet dishes for families and friends.

Al Hambra: Enjoy the Arabian Night theme at the Al Hambra with delicious Arabic dishes buffet style, nightly entertainment by Gil Amici and singer Maha.

SPORTS

Yoga lessons

For fitness and slimming Kuwait International Hotel offers yoga lessons for ladies and men, every Sunday and Tuesday from 8.00 pm to 9.00 pm and on Friday from 10.30 am to 11.30 am. For more information contact Kuwait International's Recreation Department at 2530000 ext. 8050 or Tanya at 5626529.

Kuwait Rugby

Thursday, May 17: 3rd Annual Fun-Run.

Thursday June 6: Oval Ball.

If you would like details, information on any of these please contact S. Hill 5391720, G. Adams 5644533, R. Houson 5658435.

KTV 1

9.30 Opening with the Holy Quran

9.40 Cartoon serial

10.10 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)

10.30 Daily Arabic serial

11.25 Arabic act — Amwal Al Yamama

12.30 News in brief

12.35 Closedown

1.00 Opening with the Holy Quran

1.15 World Today via Satellite (repetition)

1.45 Cartoon serial

5.00 Local programme — Little Artist

6.00 Historical serial — Muslim judges

7.00 Songs

7.15 Nour Al Islam

7.45 Cultural programme

8.00 Public and Security

8.30 Good Evening

9.00 News in

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Jobless rate up

Dollar dips against Bonn mark

LONDON, May 4. (Reuter): The dollar fell against the West German mark in Europe today after news of an unexpected rise in US unemployment took currency markets by surprise.

London shares ended sharply higher amid relief that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's ruling Conservative Party had fared better than many commentators had expected in local elections.

The Frankfurt Stock Market also surged ahead after a deal between employers and metal workers lifted the threat of a nation-wide strike.

Currency dealers said the US jobs figures, which showed unemployment at its highest level in 19 months, conflicted with recent data showing the US economy was expanding moderately.

"The job data really seemed to come out of the blue. People are more confused than before about what the US economy is doing," one trader in New York said.

The US unemployment rate rose to 5.4 per cent in April from 5.2 per cent the previous month. Economists had expected it to remain unchanged.

Only 63,000 new jobs were created outside the farm sector, compared with an expected rise of 352,000 and an advance of 103,000 in March.

Financial analysts said the low growth in new jobs had cooled any speculation that the US central bank, the Federal Reserve, might raise interest rates in the near future.

The dollar closed in London at 1,6713 West German marks, more than one pfennig below yesterday's 1,6823 close.

But it held steady against the Japanese yen, closing a touch firmer at 158.47 after 157.88.

The dollar's decline provided an extra boost to the pound sterling, already helped by yesterday's local election results, which did not lead to such heavy Conservative losses as some opinion polls had indicated.

"The result was not quite as disastrous as it might have been, or some pessimists had forecast," said David Sawyer, vice-president of foreign exchange at First Chicago Bank in London.

The London share market was cheered by the elections, and by an early but unstable rally on Wall Street after the US jobs data. By noon in New York the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 0.22 points at 2,695.95.

London's Financial Times Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares ended 27.3 points higher at 2,162.2.

In Frankfurt, shares rose sharply as foreign investors' interest took to the market after news of a pay deal between employers and metal workers in a central region of West Germany.

Banker favours convertible dinar

TUNIS, May 4. (Reuter): The governor of Tunisia's Central Bank said yesterday he was in favour of faster liberalisation and a convertible dinar to encourage foreign investment.

Bei Hamda, 54, in his first major policy speech since taking office in March, told a seminar: "Foreign exchange controls continue to limit the effects of reforms designed to tie the Tunisian money market in with the international market."

They are also an obstacle to foreign capital which is indispensable to carry out an ambitious investment programme which would create new jobs.

"That is why we are determined... to step up the process of liberalisation so as to strengthen our financial reform strategy based on a normal functioning of market mechanisms."

Hamda added: "We are determined to tackle the question of exchange controls with the aim of making the dinar convertible."

Flight pact

NICOSIA, May 4. (Reuter): Turkey will start weekly commercial flights to Qatar from under an agreement signed by the two countries on Thursday, the Qatari News Agency reported.

Gulf Air, the regional carrier jointly owned by Bahrain, Qatar and the government of Abu Dhabi, started twice-weekly flights to Turkey in 1987.

The agreement was signed in Doha by Turkey's Transport and Communications Minister Suleyman and Qatari Transport Minister Suleyman Bin Saeed Al-Mazrou.

Turks arrived in Qatar on Tuesday for talks on Turkish investment and industrial projects in Qatar.

East Germany's socialist conscience pricks

EAST BERLIN, May 4. (Agencies): East Germany has wrung a flexible deal on monetary union from Bonn but differences over its wish to protect state firms and land from market forces must be ironed out before a treaty for economic merger.

Teams of experts from both countries resumed talks in East Berlin today on the logistics of merging their economies. They're focusing now on finding a way to convert East Germany's state-owned land and enterprises to the private sector.

Under an agreement reached earlier between the nations, most East German savings accounts of up to 4,000 marks will be

traded at an equal 1-1 rate for West German marks. Most accounts higher than that will be traded at a 2-1 rate.

The highest hurdle en route to economic merger was cleared with Wednesday's pact on a currency exchange deal related to age group.

But sticking points remain that have their roots in East Germany's surviving socialist economy.

Hans Tietmeyer, a director of West Germany's Bundesbank and Chancellor Helmut Kohl's main representative in the talks, said further talks would focus on "the property issue" bequeathed by East Ger-

many's fallen communist rulers.

"We disapprove of the East German coalition's stand point on this matter," Tietmeyer told reporters in Bonn on Wednesday.

The coalition government of Premier Lothar de Maiziere wants to curb land purchases in East Germany by affluent West Germans for up to a decade to protect tenants given plots under communist land reform after World War Two.

Another bone of contention, Tietmeyer said, was East Germany's demand for subsidies to buffer inefficient state enterprises in the chan-

geover to a market economy that is to underpin a unified Germany.

East Germany wants to avert mass layoffs that might kindle social upheaval in a country where open unemployment was unknown before the 1989 demise of the Stalinist regime.

The talks resuming in East Berlin will also address East Germany's desire for interim measures to dam an unregulated flood of West German farm produce over the now open borders.

East German farmers have recently blockaded highways and border crossings in protest, fearing bankruptcy if not given

protection as their country gradually folds into the European Economic Community (EEC) market.

The two Germanys want to meld their currencies, economies and social systems on July 2, the first decisive step to unification after 45 years of communist-enforced division.

The currency accord was announced on Wednesday in good time to give what Kohl hopes will prove a boost to De Maiziere's Conservative Party bloc in voting for East Germany's district and town councils on Sunday.

East Germans under 15 years of age will be able to convert 2,000 weak East marks (\$1,200) in savings and cash at par with the valued West marks.

Those aged 15 to 59 are entitled to change 4,000 West marks (\$2,300) at par and people 60 and over 6,000 marks (\$3,750). Further savings must be changed at two-for-one.

Some East Germans interviewed after the announcement complained the conversion ceilings were insufficient to offset feared inflation and unemployment.

But, read between the lines, the deal satisfied East Berlin's quest for a better deal than the universal 4,000-mark limit originally sought by West Germany.

Iraq slams Opec over-producers

Nazer sees rebound in world crude prices

GENEVA, May 4. (Agencies): Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said today he had ordered an immediate cut in production by the world's biggest exporter and he expected petroleum prices to rebound.

Nazer told Reuters in an interview that he had acted on Thursday to comply with a new Opec agreement to cut excess output and help oil prices which have fallen by about 25 per cent since January because of a glut.

"I have already instructed our companies to implement the agreement. As soon as those instructions reach the market, I am sure that the market will turn around," Nazer said.

Prices had dropped by around a dollar per barrel after the agreement by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries on what traders said was scepticism about whether the 13 members will really stop overproducing.

"Saudi Arabia will not produce any single above its quota," Nazer said.

He said he was puzzled by the negative market reaction to the Opec accord which, other delegates said, aimed to cut the group's total output

by about six per cent.

"I do not understand the negative reaction of the market," Nazer said. "There is more than 1.4 million barrels a day that were pledged to be cut from actual production which was estimated to be 23.3 million barrels a day."

"And as far as Saudi Arabia is concerned, it would implement the agreement," he said.

"You know that the market, before we came here, estimated the cut needed at between 700,000 and one million barrels a day."

"We cut more than that. We cut 1.4 million barrels a day plus. So I do not think some analysts or traders, who want to manipulate those figures for their own sake, should now sit down and claim that the cut should be bigger than that."

Opec officials had earlier referred reporters to published estimates of the group's April production which put Saudi Arabia around 5.81 million.

Nazer was asked if this would be resolved when Opec meets next, at the end of July.

"I don't know about the scope of time," he said. "But we are definitely working for a solution of the various needs of the countries, especially

those who need to bridge the gap between their capacity to produce and their production level."

Meanwhile Iraq yesterday attacked countries producing over their Opec oil quotas which it said were disrupting prices by flooding the market.

"Those who are playing with the price of oil in an irresponsible manner, in order to achieve very limited gains, must know that they are committing a grave mistake... and it is our duty to warn them not to continue doing that," Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz told a news conference in Baghdad.

He said Iraq had called for the "non-flooding of the oil market with unjustified quantities of production, which will harm the (Arab) nation, including Iraq."

Iraq's ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra said on Thursday some Opec member states had "violated their Opec quota and flooded the market, ignoring the interests of other states in the region, including Iraq."

Nazer was asked if this would be resolved when Opec meets next, at the end of July.

"I don't know about the scope of time," he said. "But we are definitely working for a solution of the various needs of the countries, especially

those as those circles..."

Opec secretary general Dr Subroto urged the international community to co-ordinate efforts to improving the environment without undermining the long-term interests of energy producers — or any other party.

In an address to the commission of the European Economic Communities in Brussels, delivered on his behalf by Dr Izzebuwa Osayimwe, head of the economics and finance department at the Opec secretariat in Vienna, he said increased research needed to be carried out to give a better understanding of the linkage between energy and the environment.

However, he stressed that the wider issues of North-South relations and the transfer of technology had to be addressed because efforts to improve the environment were "doomed to failure" unless they provided a solution to the problem of Third World poverty.

Subroto pointed out that Opec was "decided in favour" of protecting the environment, but that the organization had observed that concern over the issue was being used "as a dubious ground for restraining the use of oil."

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Morocco to slash deficit

RABAT, May 4. (Reuter): Morocco plans to slash its budget deficit from \$795 to 112 million under a revamped 1990 austerity budget presented to parliament on Thursday by Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada.

The new budget, announced in March when King Hassan warned of more belt-tightening, was unveiled a day after the Moroccan dirham was devalued by an average 9.25 per cent against a basket of currencies.

The International Monetary Fund and World Bank have been urging Morocco to reduce its budget deficits and devalue its currency, as part of a programme to straighten out its finances burdened by a heavy foreign debt.

The World Bank estimates Morocco's total foreign debt at \$22 billion, but Moroccan officials say that after rescheduling it is \$20.7 billion.

In a budget statement obtained by Reuters, Berrada said state spending would be cut by three per cent and income increased by 4.8 per cent.

The original 1990 budget estimated the deficit at 6.99 billion dirhams (\$795 million). In the new version it is reduced to 987 million dirhams (\$112 million).

Expected to be adopted by parliament where the government has an absolute majority, the new budget cuts state capital investment this year by 16.4 per cent of 12.67 billion dirhams (\$1.44 billion).

Investments are to be cut in publicworks, agriculture, education, energy and mines, public health, transport and information.

Revenue is to be increased by 3.51 billion dirhams (\$399 million) mainly with a new tax collection system under which corporate profits tax will be paid quarterly in advance for the current year. Until now the annual tax was due in the first half of the following year.

Airlines team up to meet travel market

ZURICH, May 4. (Reuter): Four Western European airlines joined forces on Thursday in an alliance they said would help them compete in an increasingly liberalised air travel market.

The agreement, signed in Vienna, links Swissair-Schweizerische Luftverkehr Ag, Austrian Airlines (AUA), Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) and Finnair. It formally consolidates an existing network of bilateral pacts among the group's members, a spokesman for Swissair said.

The deal aims to help the flag carriers work together in a variety of areas, including customer service, marketing, sales and technical work. Swissair said in a statement.

AUA president Herbert Papousek said the partnership would not lead to a merger, but rather cement close co-operation.

The four airlines have already displayed their willingness to work together to gain an amount of leverage no individual carrier could muster.

Last month they jointly asked US aircraft manufacturer McDonnell Douglas Corp and European Airbus Industrie to submit competitive bids on an order of 240 jets with the same technical specifications. Such a large order carries more cloud with manufacturers.

Swissair president Otto Loepfli called the pact signed on Thursday "a teaming of equal partners in a European alliance."

Together the carriers employ 80,000 people. Their 250 aircraft carried 30 million passengers in 1989.

Bahrain trade deficit widens

BAHRAIN, May 4. (Reuter): Bahrain's foreign trade deficit widened 6.7 per cent to 97.2 million dinars (\$259 million) in 1989 compared with 68.4 million dinars (\$181 million) the previous year, the Bahrain Monetary Agency said.

A BMA report quoted on Thursday by the Gulf News Agency said Bahrain's total exports in 1989 rose to 1,023 billion dinars (\$2.71 billion) against 906.7 million dinars (\$2.4 billion) in 1988.

Bahrain imported goods worth 1,12 billion dinars (\$2.97 billion) in 1989, a rise of 144.9 million dinars (\$383.3 million), or 14.9 per cent, over the 1988 level of 975.1 million dinars (\$2.586 billion).

Exchange Rates

	Indian rupee	17,020
Sri Lankan rupee	7,420	
Pakistani rupee	13,540	
Bangladesh taka	8,530	
US dollar	29,395	
Pound sterling	48,750	
UAE dirham	08,000	
Deutsche mark	17,465	
Japanese yen	00,1868	

NEW DELHI, India, May 4. (AP): The United States on Thursday ruled out lifting a freeze on loans to China and criticised Asian countries for not going far enough toward opening their economies to the rest of the world.

In a speech at the Asian Development Bank's 23rd annual meeting, US Deputy Assistant Treasury Secretary George Folsom singled out Taiwan, South Korea and Thailand as three countries that needed further reforms.

Folsom also questioned whether Asia's continued rapid growth is sustainable without further liberalisation.

In a news conference later, Folsom and two other US officials ruled out immediate resumption of lending to China. About \$490 million in Asian Development Bank's loans were frozen to China after the bloody June 4 crackdown last year.

China says the decision to freeze the loans was political and therefore constitutes a violation of the bank's charter.

Larry Butcher, a State Department official, denied this.

He pointed to China's abandoning of an ambitious reform programme as the reason for the freeze.

Starting in the summer of 1988, China began scuttling its reform programme designed to introduce market mechanisms into its state-run economy. But development loans to China were only stopped after the crackdown in June and a deterioration of US-China relations caused by the granting of asylum to China's top dissident, Fang Lizhi, by the US embassy in Beijing.

In a related development, Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto called for a normalization of relations between China and the rest of the world, an indication that Japan would favour a lifting of the freeze.

Hashimoto, in a speech to the bank's members, said Japan "very much hopes that efforts on both sides will repair China's relations with the other countries and the multilateral institutions as soon as possible."

Folsom said the United States would only support loans for basic human needs for China. In February, the World Bank approved two such loans for less than \$100 million.

He said a decision of lifting the freeze would have to be decided "at levels above me."

More than 150 nations to meet in Washington

Experts to discuss scarce global savings

WASHINGTON, May 4. (Reuter): The IMF's need for more money in its role as lender of last resort and also as policeman of the world economy, fund officials said.

Developing nations are pressing for a doubling of the IMF's \$120 billion resources, arguing that the money is needed to ensure that the poor nations of Africa and the debt-ridden countries of Latin America are not squeezed out by the rush to invest in Eastern Europe.

But rich nations, particularly the United States, have balked, saying they do not have that much money to give.

World financial markets have been particularly spooked by the economic strains they see developing in West Germany from its impending monetary union with East Germany.

Investors are afraid that West Germany will be unable to contain the inflationary impact of taking care of its poorer brethren in the east without a rise in its interest rates.

That problem — and signs of resurgent inflation and upturning interest rates in America — will be high on the agenda when the

powerful Group of Seven industrialised countries meets on Sunday.

At their last meeting in Paris on April 7, the G-7 — Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the United States and West Germany — expressed concern that a weakened Japanese yen would undermine efforts to put world trade back in better balance by making Japanese exports more competitive.

Since then, the yen has stabilised, and with it, Tokyo's volatile stock market, taking some of the heat off the issue.

The G-7 also holds the key to the success of the 18-month negotiations to increase the IMF's capital.

An elaborate deal has been worked out under which Japan will displace Britain as the second most powerful nation at the IMF, commensurate with its position in the world economy.

The United States will remain number one but Britain and France are still bickering over who will take over the fourth spot, behind West Germany.

Washington has also effec-

tively threatened to veto a big IMF quota increase if the fund fails to solve its arrears problem — 11 developing countries which are behind on their payments to the IMF, one by as much as \$2 billion.

A four-part strategy has been drawn up to attack the problem — including suspending nations that are lax on their payments and using IMF gold to help those countries that want to clear their arrears but lack the money to do so.

The current betting is that the IMF will eventually settle on a 50 per cent rise in its resources to last beyond 1993.

Developing countries, and the IMF managing director Michel Camdessus will argue that will not be enough, but rich nations can point to countless other demands on their money.

Finance officials meeting face the embarrassingly stubborn problem of how to prop up the shaky Japanese yen.

Only a month ago, they pledged to work against the weak yen's "undesirable consequences" for the world economy and US trade deficit.

Brazil extends price freeze

BRASILIA, May 4. (Reuter): Carrying forward its war on inflation, the Brazilian government yesterday extended a price freeze for another month.

Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello told a news conference that during May prices of electricity, basic foods, medicines, automobiles, some electrical goods, fertilisers and agricultural equipment would not change.

President Fernando Collor de Mello, on his second day in office on March 16, unveiled one of the nation's most drastic inflation-fighting plans in history to halt annual price jumps.

The government froze more than \$100 billion of financial assets for an average of 24 months and also announced price controls. Economists said the asset freeze was so far-reaching that price controls were largely irrelevant.

Collor has said several times that inflation has been beaten back. The government estimated that prices in April did not change at all, after an 84 per cent jump in March.

But the official statistics institute, the IBGE, said on Monday that from mid-March to mid-April consumer prices rose 44.6 per cent, despite the plan.

The Collor programme comes after the failure of three anti-inflation plans in Brazil, in 1986, 1987 and 1989. Economists said the inability of former president Jose Sarney to control public spending lay at the root of the failures.

Referring to South Korea, Folsom said the new exchange rate system put in place in March is potentially important. But he said its significance will depend on further liberalization of South Korea's foreign exchange and capital controls.

The exchange system implemented March 1 uses market forces to help determine foreign exchange rates within specified limits. In the past, the government artificially set daily exchange rates.

As for Thailand, Folsom said the booming Southeast Asian country should promote further industrialisation and rural development.

Folsom voiced strong opposition to opening up replenishing of the soft loan facility. He reiterated Washington's position that even though the current funding period is set to expire this year, sufficient resources are in place to postpone talks for at least 18 months.

Most of the bank's member countries are seeking a quick replenishment of the soft loan facility, especially China and India which are requesting access to the loans.

Victor Frank, Jr., the senior US official at the bank, said the United States had yet to determine whether it would support the

request of China or India for soft loans.

Meanwhile Commerce Minister Arun Nehru said today India will not change its economic policies to please Washington, which has branded the country an unfair trader under a law that authorises retaliation.

He told parliament there would be no talks on the subject and India might try to take action of its own against the United States.

"We cannot enter into bilateral negotiations to change our basic economic policies in areas which are in the domain of sovereign decision-making," Nehru told a parliament.

The United States a week ago branded India an unfair trader for the second consecutive year under the so-called Super 301 clause of the US trade act.

President George Bush cited India for obstructing foreign investment and refusing to allow US companies to do business in the nationalised insurance industry.

Washington dropped two other countries previously cited, Japan and Brazil, from the list.

"Our policies in these areas are geared to meeting our socio-economic objectives and are designed to address the problems arising out of our economic situation," Nehru said.

India in retaliation Nehru said India might raise the issue in forthcoming talks in the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"Since the US government has not actually imposed any measure affecting India's exports, the matter is not yet ripe for taking recourse to the dispute settlement machinery of GATT," he said.

"However, we shall continue to work in multilateral fora, as we have been doing in the past, to generate pressure of international opinion against the manifestly unfair course of action adopted by the US," Nehru said.

Washington is also irked at India's outspoken opposition to including protection of patents and copyrights in the GATT talks, Delhi-based diplomats say.

Indian officials say if the government protected patents on pharmaceuticals, for example, the cost of some medicines would soar, denying health care to India's vast population of poor.

"Our policies in these areas are geared to meeting our socio-economic objectives and are designed to address the problems arising out of our economic situation," Nehru said.

Business sharply down

Philips profits dip

AMSTERDAM, May 4. (Reuter): Philips, the Dutch electronics giant, reported on Thursday a sharp drop in first quarter operating profits which brokers said was little short of disastrous.

NV Philips Gloeilampenfabrieken blamed exchange rate fluctuations and a sharp downturn in the computer business for the drop which almost wiped out net profit.

First quarter group operating profit before extraordinary items and taxes fell to 450 million guilders (\$22.5 million), 26 per cent down on the same period of 1989.

Net group profit rose 50 per cent to 336 million guilders (\$16.8 million) but this included an extraordinary gain of 330 million guilders (\$16.5 million) from the sale of defence electronics units to France's Thomson-CSF.

Turnover was 12.82 billion guilders (\$6.41 billion), only slightly higher than the same period of 1989.

"These results were something of a disaster. Philips is dragging the whole market down," one share trader said.

On the Amsterdam bourse, Philips shares fell 5.20 guilders (\$2.60) to a low of 32.50 guilders (\$16.25) on the news before recovering to 34.00 guilders (\$17.00) in late afternoon.

At London brokers Kleinwort Benson Securities, Chris Honnor, head of European sales and research, said: "Philips normally manages to let the bad news filter out but what has happened now is almost beyond belief."

Offshore banking planned

RABAT, May 4. (Reuter): Morocco plans to create an offshore banking system and a large industrial free zone to capitalise on its proximity to the European Economic Community, Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada said.

"Because of its strategic position Morocco is the gateway to Europe, destined to be the biggest market in the world," Berrada told a news conference on Wednesday night.

He said the government proposed to set up an offshore banking system in the northern city of Tangier, 10 miles from Europe across the Gibraltar Straits.

The industrial free zone would be located on 300 hectares (740 acres) at the new ocean port of Jorf Lasfar 110 km (69 miles) southwest of Casablanca.

The proposals will be discussed by 124 senior multinational corporation and banking executives who will attend a symposium today and tomorrow in the southern seaside resort of Agadir.

"We have invited top people from all over the world, from Europe, Asia and the Americas. We are going to give it to them," Berrada said.

He said offshore banking in Tangier would be available to foreign banks which could open premises within the city limits.

Imports surge

UAE trade surplus up

ABU DHABI, May 4. (Reuter): The rise in international oil prices enabled the United Arab Emirates to record a 38 per cent increase in its trade surplus last year, it has been disclosed here.

According to the Emirates Industrial Bank, the surplus in 1989 amounted to \$4.9 billion compared with \$3.5 billion the previous year.

A report by the bank said: "The increase is due to a large rise in oil revenues after oil prices stabilised at the levels set by Opec."

The study did not disclose the UAE's oil earnings for the year.

The bank said that imports rose by 16 per cent to \$10 billion in value against \$7.8 billion in 1988 with the European Economic Community (EEC) maintaining its position as the UAE's largest trading partner



King Farouq with Erma

Romanian filmmaker**Gifted with the art of dodging censors**

By Andrej Gustinic

BUCHAREST: (Reuters) Romanian filmmaker and dissident Mircea Daneliuc braved censorship and death threats in his struggle to make movies under Nicolae Ceausescu.

Making films under Ceausescu was an adventure," Daneliuc, 47, told Reuters in an interview. "Trying to get your films released wasn't difficult, it was downright gruesome."

Daneliuc, who makes violent parables of totalitarianism and human weakness, was one of the few talented Romanian filmmakers who refused to leave his country and seek a career in the West.

"I wanted to be here for the revolution," he said.

Ceausescu, one of Europe's last Stalinist dictators, and his wife Elena were ousted and executed during a bloody uprising last December.

Although it never reached the peaks of Hungarian, Czechoslovak or Polish film, the Romanian film industry produced several outstanding films in the 1960s and 1970s, such as the 1964 film *The Forest of the Hanged*, the country's first international cinematic success.

"The official policy was to support spineless people," Daneliuc said. "Censorship here was more atrocious than elsewhere in Eastern Europe."

Ceausescu created a personality cult of awesome proportions for himself and his wife and demanded that films should glorify Romanian history and the achievements of the Communist Party.

"Film-makers needed to have a special gift — they had to be more cunning than the censors, who were adept at finding allusions to Ceausescu and Elena even where there weren't any," Daneliuc said.

His 1985 film *Glossario*, which was concerned with the rise of totalitarianism and is strongly influenced by Soviet director Andrei Tarkovsky and Italian director Federico Fellini, ran into endless layers of censorship.

The film sat on a shelf for two years before being given limited release. It was quickly withdrawn.

"One of the more generous censors offered me a way out — he suggested that I burn my film and pay for the damages myself," he said.

"I loved that solution," said Daneliuc with heavy irony.

The experience of trying to release the film, full of shocking and grotesque images, prompted Daneliuc to throw down his Communist Party card at a dramatic meeting of the official filmmakers' union, an unheard of act with harsh consequences.

He was interrogated daily and received death threats over the telephone.

"Every time I went to walk my dog, I was not sure whether I would get home alive," he said.

Their directors who tried to make critical films suffered a similar fate, so many turned to making historical epics which the Ceausescu favoured.

After what seemed to me to be an eternity and after much hesitation, and with bitter sweet memories reflecting from her countenance, she said: "I was only 16 years old when I fell in love with King Farouq when he arrived in Naples to spend his

years of exile — after a period of seven years from the date of my first meeting. At that age, I felt I loved him."

From a journalistic viewpoint, I queried: But, how did you love him?

"Listen Kuwaiti," she said.

"Pardon me calling you in this manner, but I cannot pronounce your name well. It is really a stormy story and was the talk of the whole Italian society that day. In a nutshell, I fell in love with him and was opposed by both my father and mother. In the final analysis, my mother accepted the reality, as only mothers can understand their daughters who are very close to them — both being women."

Prodding further, I asked: But, why Farouq in particular, seeing that girls of your age had a "plethora of men" to choose from.

By Ahmed Al Jarallah

ERMA, an enigmatic lady, is the central theme of this story and my first plan of action was directed to the modalities of getting to know this mysterious woman.

This truly remarkable personage is the well known Princess Erma Caprice Minotoli, mistress of former monarch of Egypt, King Farouq.

To people who lived during that era, Erma represented the story of mammal developments and changes in the Middle East region and the birth of new values and regimes and the downfall of others.

This lady kept her love alive for the king until he died. She had been in my thoughts for a number of years.

How I met with her, spent three exciting days and the conversation that transpired, including her testimony, which is the first of its kind, provides an insight into the man we always thought was the most spoilt on earth.

Flying to that ancient dreamy city of Rome where Erma lives, I met with her and found her to even exceed my imagination. I began my interview with the question:

How did you come about to meet with King Farouq the first time?

Taking a deep breath, the princess said:

"I was nine years old when I first saw the king. I was the little girl who presented him flowers at a function held in his honour at an aristocratic club in the city of Naples in 1952. That day cannot be erased from my memory as his face reflected sadness after the king abdicated the Egyptian throne and left his country.

As a little girl at that time, I did not know what was going on around me. All I knew was the sadness on the face of King Farouq to the extent that I felt it was killing him. I did not even realise the status of the man who took the flowers from me, except to see that he had green bluish eyes, a good looking face and that he returned the compliment when I bowed down before him by playing with my hair.

Wanting to probe further, I asked her to tell me precisely when she fell in love with King Farouq, how this love developed and how she spent her life with him.

After what seemed to me to be an eternity and after much hesitation, and with bitter sweet memories reflecting from her countenance, she said: "I was only 16 years old when I fell in love with King Farouq when he arrived in Naples to spend his

years of exile — after a period of seven years from the date of my first meeting. At that age, I felt I loved him."

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"Pardon me calling you in this manner, but I cannot pronounce your name well. It is really a stormy story and was the talk of the whole Italian society that day. In a nutshell, I fell in love with him and was opposed by both my father and mother. In the final analysis, my mother accepted the reality, as only mothers can understand their daughters who are very close to them — both being women."

Prodding further, I asked: But, why Farouq in particular, seeing that girls of your age had a "plethora of men" to choose from.



Ahmed Jarallah relaxes with Erma in a restaurant.

An exclusive interview with Erma — the lady who loved King Farouq of Egypt and still cherishes her memories...

The princess replied that she could really not put into words the exact factors that contributed to her falling in love with Farouq in particular, but commented that he was handsome and his eyes were what really attracted her. She went on to say that she still remembered the Egypt of the Nile and its old rich history — the Pharaohs, the Roman Caesar, Cleopatra and others.

"I was a young girl at that impressionable age and all this history living in my mind somehow transfigured onto Farouq who made a vivid impression upon me. Though not being specialised in history, I had heard numerous stories from older Italian girls about Farouq and was impressed that I was with an Arab king who could narrate to me many tales about the Arabs and Middle Eastern men. I even

became convinced that the wonderful story of "Cinderella" originated from the Middle East because of its poignant imagination.

"Cruising along these lines of thought it was not long before the winds of Farouq blew me to the Nile. He was a true artist, as he loved art, fluently spoke six languages and spoke Italian as his mother tongue. He used to sing me a famous Naples song: 'What your mother had done for you. He played the piano as he sang. He sang in Italian and he also used to sing in Arabic and I used to love it. Though, I knew no Arabic, he taught me the word 'Habibti' (My Darling) and 'Inshallah' (If Allah wills) and explained their meanings to me. I particularly liked the second word, but do not know why. Perhaps because it is optimistic," she added.

I expressed to the princess my desire to visit all the places that Farouq used to visit and take her along with me. But, in the interim, I asked her to tell me the story of how he was deposed from the throne.

The query took her by complete surprise and perhaps dismay as she immediately rebutted: "You Kuwaiti, do not say that Farouq was deposed from the throne of Egypt. Farouq decided to step down and was not deposed. He had always been telling me this and had assured me that he stepped down in order to avoid a civil war. He said that he chose to leave for Naples alone in 1952, carrying his sorrows with him rather than spreading the sorrow and sadness all over Egypt. He held his sorrow to himself, though to me I

Meanwhile, the restaurant owner looked at Princess Erma and asked her — "Is this a new Farouq?"

She smiled shyly and explained to him who I was.

When he left, Princess Erma looked at me and said that after the lunch she would order a special type of cake called "To Up" — though — we in the Middle East like the cake "To Down".

She asked if I would like coffee. After declining I asked her if she preferred to continue the interview until dinner. Answering in the negative she asked me to take her home as she did not like to go alone. I left her at the gate with the promise to continue the conversation in the evening.

To be continued next week

Breaking down barriers of bilingual learning

CHELSEA, Mass. (CSM): Standing at the blackboard in fifth-grade maths class, new arrival Andre Sardana scribbles a division problem differently from the other students. Puzzled, they tell teacher Peggy Harrington that he should do it "the right way."

"No, let him do it the Czech way," she says. "He'll work it out." And, after much writing and erasing, he does — triumphantly.

Andre is from Czechoslovakia, but most of his classmates are Spanish-speaking, with various levels of English comprehension. What they have in common is that they are all good in maths. Mixing them in the same classroom is part of a pilot programme the Shurleff School has started to break down the barriers between bilingual and monolingual learning.

Such experimentation is becoming the norm at Shurleff and other schools here

in Chelsea, a city hitherto known for problems in education. And behind the attempted revival is Boston University (BU), which last June became the first private university to manage a school district in the United States.

In 1987, when the Chelsea School Committee invited the university to manage the school system for 10 years, the district faced numerous challenges: low test scores, high dropout rates, teen pregnancy, low salaries for school employees. In addition, 65 per cent of the district's 3,500 pupils don't speak English.

The powerhouse behind the plan, John Silber, who recently took leave from being president of BU to run for governor, has said Chelsea "is the crucible for the American dream. If we can solve the problems in Chelsea, we can solve them... anywhere."

BU's plan calls for scrutinizing every aspect of the school system. Topping the

management team's agenda area:

- Individual learning plans for every student.
- Year-round child care.
- Placement of health clinic in every school.
- A written curriculum (Chelsea does not have one now).
- An extended year for teachers and administrators in order for them to spend more time on professional development.
- Building new schools and modernizing facilities.

"This isn't business as usual — this is education reform," says Assistant Dean of Education Ted Sharp. "How are we going to cut red tape and see what works?"

In the agreement, the university pays for new programmes, while Chelsea pays for running the school. The city is paying only 17 per cent of tax revenues toward education; nearby cities pay as much as

73 per cent.

The university's budget for next year calls for a 16 per cent increase in city spending, and this goal is supported by the mayor. This would boost the school system's current budget of \$14 million by about \$2 million, Dean Sharp estimates.

BU's ambitious plan has traveled a rocky road both before and after taking charge of the system last June. Teachers objected to a hard-hitting report BU issued on school conditions. There were city budget crises, a state economic downturn, and fund raising by the university got tougher as national foundations tightened purse strings. Chelsea Teachers Union was unhappy with changes in state law that the university obtained — such as gaining access to pupil and personnel records — and tried to block the plan.

But the school reforms, like the digging of the Panama Canal, went forward

slowly. Many eyes are watching the project: the Governor's Oversight Panel, an Executive Advisory Committee (a host of special-interest groups), and the Chelsea School Committee.

Teachers initially were worried that BU would be breathing down their necks. But the university has come in with a gentler hand than anticipated.

Part of that is because of acknowledged mistakes on BU's part.

In a candid lecture recently, dean of education and director of the project Peter Greer admitted that not understanding how the community operates as well as not giving teachers credit for the good they had accomplished, resulted in slower progress.

Cathy O'Rourke, who teaches fifth-grade science at Shurleff, is in favour of BU's reforms.

"In the first year you had people so skeptical, watching.

Men who uphold standard of French gastronomy**They can bring ruin or riches**

By Claire Rosenberg

PARIS (Reuters): Their job is as lonely as a spy's. Their comments can provoke ruin — even suicide. These are the Michelin Men whose taste buds are trained to uphold the highest standards of French gastronomy.

Having Michelin stars is like having a Damocles sword over three-star chef demo'd in this year's edition of the Michelin Guide. He was finding it hard to swallow.

"Having stars means constant tension, being obsessed with food, never leaving the kitchen, never seeing friends or family — then they go and take one away."

Michelin didn't tell Charial exactly why L'ouest De Baumaniere in Southern France, lost one of the stars won 35 years ago by his grandfather Raymond Thullier, who at the age of 94 still hovers in the kitchen.

"They said it would give us publicity," Charial said. "The worst is, they were right."

The thick, red guide has gone a long way since its launch by the Michelin tyre company in 1900 as an aid to the intrepid drivers of the world's first automobiles. It help with lessening the disturbances of the sleep patterns, it can also be helpful here, to relieve the symptoms and it may mean a period of time away from normal activities, but that is a decision for you and your physician.

Distributed free of charge, it listed bakeries and hardware stores that sold petrol, gave a recipe for a home-made eye ointment to combat the effects of dust and discussed the trouble caused by horseshoe nails littering the roads.

With 650,000 copies now sold each year, it is Europe's top-selling guide as well as the traveller's bible on the finest restaurants and hotels of France and of some of its neighbours.

But how the 1,200-page book awards its stars and selects its prime establishments is a secret Michelin enjoys cultivating.

"Discretion is part of the company ethic," Bernard Naegelen, director of the famed guides, told Reuters. "Why should we reveal our trade secrets? What would be the point?"

"The only thing that matters to us is to keep our readers happy by producing an excellent guide."

A quietly-spoken hotel school graduate of about 50, Naegelen showed that although he had agreed to a rare interview, there was absolutely no question of meeting one of Michelin's legendary inspectors, a crop of secret sleuths whose identity is as well protected as that of a spy.

Michelin maintained the secret of their

identity by rotation, he said.

"It takes seven or eight years for an inspector to cover the whole of France. By the time he returns to his point of departure, people have forgotten his face."

Most of the men, whose pernickety tastes can bring ruin, riches or even suicide as in the case of one restauranteur who lost his star in the 1960s, were hotel school graduates with 10 years' professional experience, Naegelen said.

"They must be robust enough to cope with the many meals, fired by passion and not be afraid of solitude."

Despite their lonely crusades across the land in quest of "that extra-special out-of-the-way gem of a place," as Naegelen put it, the Michelin tasters get no perks. "We never reimburse liqueurs or aperitifs," he said.

As for their probity, one of Michelin's protest qualities, new recruits were scrutinized during months of training.

"It goes without saying that our inspectors are honest," he said. "Our reputation is such, however, that no French restauranteur or hotel-keeper would ever dream of paying a bribe or even offering a free meal or drink. We always pay."

But how does Michelin give and take

away its prized stars? What does it take to be in the top league of 19 three-star restaurants?

Naegelen explained that the 600-odd restaurants awarded a star — along with potential candidates for one — were visited incognito every 12 to 18 months, at least once but sometimes several times by a different inspector.

"They often don't even know we've been," he said.

During the same timespan, one of his food sleuths will call, eat, pay the bill, then show his card for an on-the record chat about the owner's plans for brightening the decor or the food.

Egypt will not be also-rans: Al Gohari

CAIRO, May 4. (Reuter): Egypt's soccer boss, under fire for a string of poor performances, has vowed his unpredictable side will do themselves proud at next month's World Cup finals in Italy.

"I am preparing a ferocious team that cannot be easily defeated in the World Cup," Mahmoud Al Gohari told Cairo newspapers.

"Egypt will not be also-rans," he said of the side that, after 56 years away from the World

Cup finals, will meet the Netherlands, England and Ireland in Group F.

Soccer fans in Egypt have little faith in their side making it to the second round following scoreless draws in February in warm-ups with Denmark, South Korea and Austria.

Egyptian soccer officials and players talked Gohari out of resigning last March when a 25,000-strong crowd jeered and shouted obscenities following Egypt's 3-1 defeat at home to Romania in a friendly.

Gohari, angered by the crowd's behaviour, decided not to play any more friendlies in Egypt and took the side to Europe for training and more warm-up games.

Local sports commentators, angered by reports of rivalries and squabbles among players, sharply criticised Gohari following a 2-0 defeat last month by East Germany.

They charged the team had lost the drive and stamina they showed when they pipped Algeria — finalists in 1982 and 1986 — for a place in the finals with a 1-0 aggregate score last year.

In a peacemaking, two-hour chat with local sports writers, Gohari urged them to back the team and promised the players would dramatically improve before the finals.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Ryder Cup

LONDON, May 4. (Reuter): Spain should be allowed to host the 1993 Ryder Cup as a tribute to Seve Ballesteros, says Britain and Europe's new captain, Bernard Gallacher. Gallacher said on a British television sports programme on Wednesday that the PGA European Tour board are backing Spain's application to stage the golf match against the United States at de Campo, Madrid, in three years.

Youths riot

MOSCOW, May 4. (Reuter): At least 34 people were injured when youths rioted in Andizhan after a visiting soccer team failed to turn up for a match in the Uzbekistan city. Tass said yesterday. Gangs of youths rampaged through the city in Soviet Central Asia, burning down or vandalising more than 200 shops, homes and official buildings, including the prosecutor's office and Communist Party headquarters, the official news agency said.

Uruguay win

PADUA, Italy, May 4. (AP): Despite the absence of several key players, Uruguay trounced Italian second-division Padua 4-1 last night in an exhibition match as Uruguay prepares for the World Cup.

TV broadcasts

BERN, Switzerland, May 4. (AP): Television broadcasts of the 52 World Cup matches in Italy next month will be watched by more than 26 billion viewers, the International Football Federation said yesterday.

Romanian player

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, May 4. (AP): Miodrag Belodedici, a Romanian soccer player who defected to Yugoslavia in 1988, said yesterday that he has been invited to play for his native country in the World Cup.

Injured midfielder

MAIANO, Italy, May 4. (AP): The doctor for the Uruguayan national team said yesterday that injured midfielder Ruben Pereira could resume training within 10 days and be ready for World Cup play.

Stadium timers

ZURICH, Switzerland, May 4. (AP): Soccer stadium timers will be shut off at the World Cup finals in Italy to take some heat off the referees, soccer's international regulatory body said yesterday.

New turf

MILAN, Italy, May 4. (AP): Workers have installed new turf in record time at Meazza stadium and made the Milan arena ready to host the inaugural game of the World Cup between defending champion Argentina and Cameroon on June 8. City officials said the turf was replaced in five days immediately following the April 25 Italian Cup final between AC Milan and Juventus.

Stanley Cup

NEW YORK, May 4. (Reuter): Results in the semifinal round of the National Hockey League Stanley Cup playoffs yesterday. Wales Conference finals. Boston Bruins 5 Washington Capitals 3; Bruins lead of seven series 1-0.

Title fight

LONDON, May 4. (Reuter): European champion Paul Hodgkinson will fight Mexico's Marcos Villasante for the vacant World Boxing Council (WBC) featherweight title on June 2.

Coach resigns

DUBLIN, May 4. (Reuter): Jim Davidson has resigned as coach of Ireland's rugby union team after three unsuccessful years in charge, team officials said yesterday.

1,000 Guineas

NEW MARKET, England, May 4. (Reuter): Veteran jockey Willie Carson captured the only English horse racing classic to elude him after 20 minutes and Nigel Clough had an effort deflected past Leighton two

to a 1,000 Guineas success in the 1,000 Guineas yesterday.

Cycling race

MADRID, Spain, May 4. (AP): Belgian rider Nico Emonds confirmed yesterday that he had failed an anti-doping test taken just after he won the third leg of the Tour of Spain cycling race.

IBF champion

ROME, May 4. (AP): Gianfranco Rosi of Italy will put his IBF junior middleweight title on the line in a bout June 22 against American challenger Darren van Horn, officials announced yesterday.

Round scrapped

IRVING, Texas, May 4. (Reuter): PGA officials yesterday scrapped the opening round of the Byron Nelson Golf Classic and reduced it to a 54-hole event after a two-day storm deluged the Dallas-Fort Worth area yesterday with more than eight inches (20 cm) of rain.

Golfers commit

CASTLE ROCK, Colorado, May 4. (AP): Ronan Rafferty and Jose-Maria Olazabal, who finished first and second in the European Order of Merit last year, have committed to play in the international at Castle Rock in August.

Austria hold Argentina

Maradona's team gives confused performance

VIENNA, May 4. (Reuter): World Cup holders Argentina conceded an early own goal before recovering to draw 1-1 against Austria yesterday in a soccer friendly one month before they begin the defence of their title.

Defender Juan Simon deflected the ball into his own net after just two minutes and 20 seconds to propel fellow finalists Austria into a shock lead.

Argentine captain Diego Maradona set up the equaliser in the 31st minute when he slipped the ball into the area and into the path of an unmarked Jorge Burruchaga, who shot low into the far corner of the net to score.

Burruchaga's goal was Argentina's first in nine internationals since last July but the team's confused performance appeared unlikely to inspire confidence in the side as they head towards the opening match of the World Cup finals in

Italy on June 8. Simon's disastrous deflection came off Austria's first shot of the game, when midfielder Manfred Zeak attempted to beat keeper Nery Pumpido with a shot from the edge of the area.

The confusion as Pumpido moved the wrong way to block the shot set the tone for the match, in which both teams showed more frenzy than finish in attack.

Maradona, slumped down and fresh from leading club Napoli to the league title, showed only occasional flashes of brilliance and was treated with little ceremony by the Austrian defence.

His pass to Burruchaga was a rare highlight in the match and Argentina squandered two easy chances in the second half.

Substitute striker Claudio Caniggia missed the first in front of an open goal six minutes after the interval and Simon and Nestor

Lorenzo found themselves clear 12 minutes later but failed to capitalise.

Austria, who face hosts Italy in their opening match of the World Cup finals, and the 1986 champions are both still experimenting with their line-ups before finalising their squads for the month-long tournament.

The uncertainty showed in five substitutions by Austria and mistimed passing by Argentina, who have not had an authentic squad for five months because so many players had European club commitments.

For Austria, forward Alfred Hoernagel shot just wide late in the first half and in the second Austrian players angrily surrounded the referee to demand a penalty when Andreas Ogris lay writhing on

The protest brought a caution for Austrian captain Toni Polster, one of four Austrians booked.

Argentines have only two friends left before the opening World Cup match against Cameroon and have won only five of their 29 matches since their World Cup triumph. They face Switzerland on May 8 and Israel on May 22.

Austria — Klaus Lindenberger (Michael Konsel, 46th minute), Kurt Russ, Robert Pecl, Michael Streicher, Peter Schoettel, Manfred Zsak (Christian Keglevits 46), Manfred Linzamaier (Andreas Reisinger 46), Peter Artner, Anton Polster, Gerhard Rodax (Andreas Ogris 46), Alfred Hoernagel (Andreas Herzog 69).

Argentina — Nery Pumpido, Sergio Basista, Juan Simon, Nestor Lorenzo (Pedro Troglia 82), Oscar Ruggeri, Jose Serrizuela, Jorge Burruchaga (Ricardo Guis 88), Roberto Sensini, Abel Balbo (Claudio Caniggia 46), Diego Maradona, Jose Basualdo.



Maradona jumps over Austria's Peter Arnter during the match. (Reuter wirephoto)



Polster (left) and Maradona shake hands after the match. (Reuter wirephoto)

Robson reduces Cup squad

Notts rout United, Palace win

LONDON, May 4. (Reuter): Manchester United, rocked by a four-goal blow in 25 minutes, lost 4-0 to Nottingham Forest in the English First Division on Wednesday while FA Cup final opponents Crystal Palace received a victory boost.

Palace, who face Manchester United at Wembley on May 12, beat Wimbledon 1-0 away in the League with a 62nd-minute winner from striker Mark Bright.

More important for Palace, influential central defender Andy Thorn came safely through his first game for three weeks after an ankle injury. However, Thorn was one of six men booked in a bad-tempered game.

Forest, who retained the League Cup on Sunday, hit all four goals in their home win during the first 25 minutes against a United side who rested their England captain Bryan Robson and Wales striker Mark Hughes.

The Forest goal started in the second minute when Garry Parker fired a superb volley past Jim Leighton.

Stuart Pearce scored the second with a curling free kick after 20 minutes and Nigel Clough had an effort deflected past Leighton two

minutes later. Steve Chettle headed the fourth in the 25th minute.

England manager Bobby Robson has reduced his list of World Cup possibles to 26, leaving four players to be omitted when he finalises his squad for Italy.

There are no surprises in the party, although Arsenal's Alan Smith is back in favour at senior level despite a disappointing season. He enhanced his claim by scoring both goals for England B in the win against Czechoslovakia last week.

His Arsenal team mate Tony Adams is also restored to senior status after a spell as captain of the B team.

When Robson names his world cup 22 he is likely to leave out a goalkeeper, central defender, midfielder and striker from the squad named yesterday for the home friendlies against Denmark on May 15 and Uruguay on May 22.

Goalkeepers: Peter Shilton (Derby), Chris Woods (Rangers), Dave Seaman (Queen's Park Rangers), Dave Beasant (Chelsea).

Defenders: Gary Stevens (Rangers), Paul Parker (Queen's Park

Rangers), Des Walker (Nottingham Forest), Terry Butcher (Rangers), Tony Adams (Arsenal), Mark Wright (Derby), Stuart Pearce (Nottingham Forest), Tony Dorigo (Chelsea).

Midfielders: Chris Waddle (Marseille), David Rocastle (Arsenal), Trevor Steven (Rangers), Neil Webb (Manchester United), Bryan Robson (Manchester United), Paul Gascoigne (Tottenham), Steve McMahon (Liverpool), Steve Hodge (Nottingham Forest).

Forwards: John Barnes (Liverpool), Peter Beardsley (Liverpool), Gary Lineker (Tottenham), Alan Smith (Arsenal), Steve Bull (Wolverhampton), David Platt (Aston Villa).

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Pakistan to host third Asia Cup tourney

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, May 4 (AP): Pakistan will host the third Asia Cup cricket tournament, the Asian Cricket Conference announced today.

Abdul-Rahman Buhkhatir, patron of the Cricketers Benefit Fund Series (CBFS) who chaired the ACC meeting in Sharjah, said that the dates will be set after the next ACC meeting in London

later this year.

Sri Lanka hosted the biennial championship in 1986 and Bangladesh in 1988.

The ACC announced after the meeting that Nepal has become a member of the group, affiliated with the International Cricket Conference, the governing body of the sport in the world.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the six-nation Australasia Cup cricket tournament, organized by CBFS.

The CBFS is likely to suffer a huge loss at the Sharjah tournament sponsored by the Japanese company Sanyo due to poor spectator turnout.

But CBFS executives said they were

still keen to go ahead with the Sharjah Champions Trophy at the end of the year where the West Indies, India and Pakistan are among the teams to be invited.

The CBFS executives said West Indies, who have competed regularly in Sharjah tournaments, have already confirmed their participation.

Pakistan win Australasia Cup

Wasim Man of the Match; Younus Man of the Series



Wasim turned the tide of the match

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, May 4 (AP): Wasim Akram turned in a brilliant all-round performance including a hat-trick as Pakistan defeated Australia by 36 runs to keep possession of the Australasia Cup cricket title after an absorbing final today.

Wasim, still recovering from a groin operation, showed he was still a world class player by first knocking out a hat-trick as Pakistan's total of 266 for 7 in 50 overs. Akram then grabbed three for 45 including a hat-trick to cripple the favourites.

World Cup champions Australia, who were never far away from victory until the 46th over, were dismissed for 230 in 46.5 overs.

The Australians were playing at a disadvantage after being hit by a flu virus. The opener and vice-captain Geoff Marsh, also suffering from a bout of asthma, was not included in their eleven. His absence forced the Australians to include a bowler, Merv Hughes, in his place.

At one stage, Australia were promisingly placed at 133 for 3, until the stoic opener Mark Taylor foolishly run himself out for 52 in the 34th over. The batsmen, also benefited from some shoddy Pakistani fielding which grazed at least five catches.

Left-arm paceman Wasim, who did not have much success until his ninth over, presented the trophy to Pakistan in a remarkable manner.

He clean-bowled tailenders Merv Hughes, Carl Rackemann and Terry Alderman with his third, fourth and fifth balls to complete his second hat-trick in Sharjah. The 23-year-old

Pakistani heart throbs had also taken a hat-trick against the West Indies in Sharjah last year.

While Wasim won the Man of the Match award of \$500, his fellow paceman Waqar Younis picked up the Man of the Series prize of \$2,000 for his haul of 17 wickets.

Simon O'Donnell scored the fastest 50 — in 18 balls and won himself \$2,500.

Pakistan's innings revolved around Salim Malik's splendid and timely knock of 87 faced with nine boundaries and a six off 104 balls.

He put on 69 vital runs for the fourth wicket with Ejaz Ahmed in 66 balls.

However, it was Wasim Akram and Mushtaq Ahmed who gave the Pakistanis a match-winning total

with a crucial and rapid 59 runs for the unfinished eighth wicket in just 32 balls.

The Australians, who were forced to leave out an ailing Geoff Marsh — one of their inform batsmen — fended very well with Steve Waugh excelling in the deep with some five saves and throw ins at the wicket.

Wasim raised the tempo of the innings with some typically lusty hitting, which included two successive sixes off Simon O'Donnell's final over of the innings.

The six-nation \$100,000 competition started April 25 in this southern Gulf Emirate of Sharjah and was organized by the Cricketers Benefit Fund Series and sponsored by the Japanese firm Sanyo. Knocked out of the competition were India, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

India and Bangladesh failed to make it past the group stage. In the semifinals, Pakistan crushed New Zealand by eight wickets while Australia overcame Sri Lanka by 114 runs.

Both Sri Lanka and New Zealand received \$10,000 each.

New Zealand, who scored the highest score of 336 for 4 at this tournament, against Bangladesh, also had the dubious honour of recording the lowest — 74 all out — against Pakistan.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN

Saeed Anwar c Healy b Rackemann ... 40

Salim Yousuf lbw b Alderman ... 5

Javed Miandad c Healy b Waugh ... 14

Saleem Malik c Border b P. Taylor ... 17

Ejaz Ahmed c Healy b Rackemann ... 20

Imran Khan c Healy b Rackemann ... 2

Mansoor Riaz run out ... 10

Wasim Akram not out ... 49

Mushtaq Ahmed not out ... 17

Extras (b-3, lb-10, w-9) ... 22

Total (for seven wickets, 50 overs) ... 265

Did not bat: Waqar Younis, Aaqib Javed.

Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-54, 3-80,

4-109, 5-154, 6-179, 7-207.

Bowling: Alderman ... 5-1-22-1,

Hughes 10-0-55-0, Rackemann 10-0-

49-3, O'Donnell 10-0-66-0, Waugh 5-0-22-1, P. Taylor 10-0-39-1.

AUSTRALIA

David Boon run out ... 37

Mark Taylor run out ... 52

Dean Jones b Waqar Younis ... 0

Allan Border lbw b Waqar Younis ... 1

Steve Waugh c Aaqib Javed b Mushtaq Ahmed ... 64

Simon O'Donnell c Ejaz Ahmed b Mushtaq Ahmed ... 33

Peter Taylor c Saeed Anwar b Mushtaq Ahmed ... 19

Ian Healy not out ... 12

Merv Hughes b Wasim Akram ... 0

Carl Alderman b Wasim Akram ... 0

Terry Alderman b Wasim Akram ... 0

Extras (b-10, w-3) ... 13

Total (all out, 46.5 overs) ... 230

Fall of wickets: 1-62, 2-62, 3-64,

4-133, 5-187, 6-207, 7-207, 8-230, 9-

230, 10-230.

Bowling: Wasim Akram 8.5-0-45-3,

Aaqib Javed 7-0-27-0, Waqar Younis 8-0-38-2, Mushtaq Ahmed 10-1-48-3, Imran Khan 7-0-28-0.

Pakistan won the six-nation limited-overs Australasia Cup final by 36 runs.



Jabra crowned champions

Jabra sports Club were officially crowned champions of the Kuwait Football League yesterday. The vice-president of the Kuwait Football Federation on Sheikh Talal Khalid Al Ahmad presented the League shield to Jabra captain Mutayer Sherqat Jabra won the title for the first time in their 23-year history. Jabra were little affected by a 1-0 defeat at the hands of Salimya in their last fixture of the League yesterday. Above Mutayer displays the shield.

SPORTS BRIEFS

NBA playoffs

NEW YORK, May 4. (Reuters): Results of first-round National Basketball Association (NBA) playoff games yesterday:

Cleveland 108 P. 76ers 96

(Best-of-five series tied 2-2)

L.A. Lakers 109 Houston 88

(Lakers win best-of-five series 3-1)

Chicago Bulls 110 Milwaukee 86

(Bulls win best-of-five series 3-1)

Moses resigns

RALEIGH, North Carolina, May 4. (Reuters): Edwin Moses, the 400-metre hurdles world record holder, and three others have resigned from a much criticized board that oversees the US athletics drug-testing programme, sources close to the board said yesterday.

Tyson Jr born

NEW YORK, May 4. (AP): Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson became a father this week when a baby boy was born to his 24-year-old girlfriend at a hospital in the Catskill mountains, the New York Post said today. The newspaper says the child, as yet unnamed, was born Wednesday to Los Angeles divorcee Natalie Fears.

Botham sidelined

LONDON, May 4. (Reuters): England all-rounder Ian Botham has had an exploratory operation on his left knee. His county Worcestershire said yesterday some tissue had been removed from the joint and it was expected that Botham would be fit to play in 10 to 14 days.

Argentine star

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, May 4. (AP): Gabriela Sabatini may be slipping in the tennis ranks, but she's still Argentina's darling and may soon be the star of a TV soap opera.

Reports rejected

ROME, May 4. (Reuters): Italian soccer officials today rejected as out of date reports that fans might be banned from four World Cup stadiums because of inadequate security measures. Hermann Neuberger, Fifa vice-president and president of the World Cup organising commission, was quoted by English newspapers as

Navratilova cruises into quarterfinals

HAMBURG, West Germany, May 4 (AP): Martina Navratilova found her form on clay and breezed past Isabel Cueto of West Germany 6-2, 6-2 yesterday to reach the quarterfinals of the \$350,000 Citizen Cup women's tournament.

The 31-year-old American, ranked second in the world, produced a contrasting display to her opening match Wednesday in which she dropped a set to Australian Rachel McQuillan, and won in 77 minutes.

In other action, sixth-seeded Nathalie Tauziat of France was upset 6-4, 2-6, 6-1 by 61st-ranked Nicole Laggerman of the Netherlands.

Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain, the third seed, cruised to 6-2, 6-1 victory over 10th seeded West German Sylvia Hanika, fifth seed Helena Sukova downed fellow Czechoslovak Regina Rajchirova 7-6, 6-2 and No. 8 seed Judith Wiesner of Austria defeated West German Wilder Probst 6-3, 6-2.

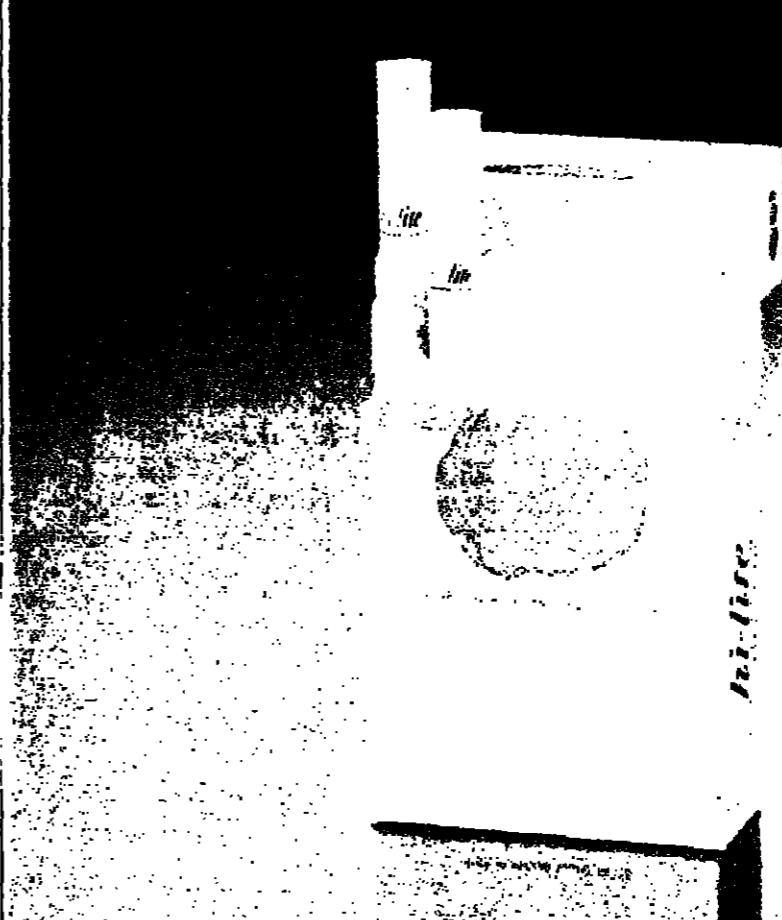
Navratilova, playing her first tournament on European clay since losing a fourth-round match to Soviet Natalia Zvereva in the 1988 French Open, was never in trouble against Cueto, who was hampered by knee trouble.

"She wasn't able to move as well as she can and that took a bit of the wind out of her sails," Navratilova said. "But I felt more comfortable today. I felt more at home on the court and I was playing on instinct instead of worrying about the court."

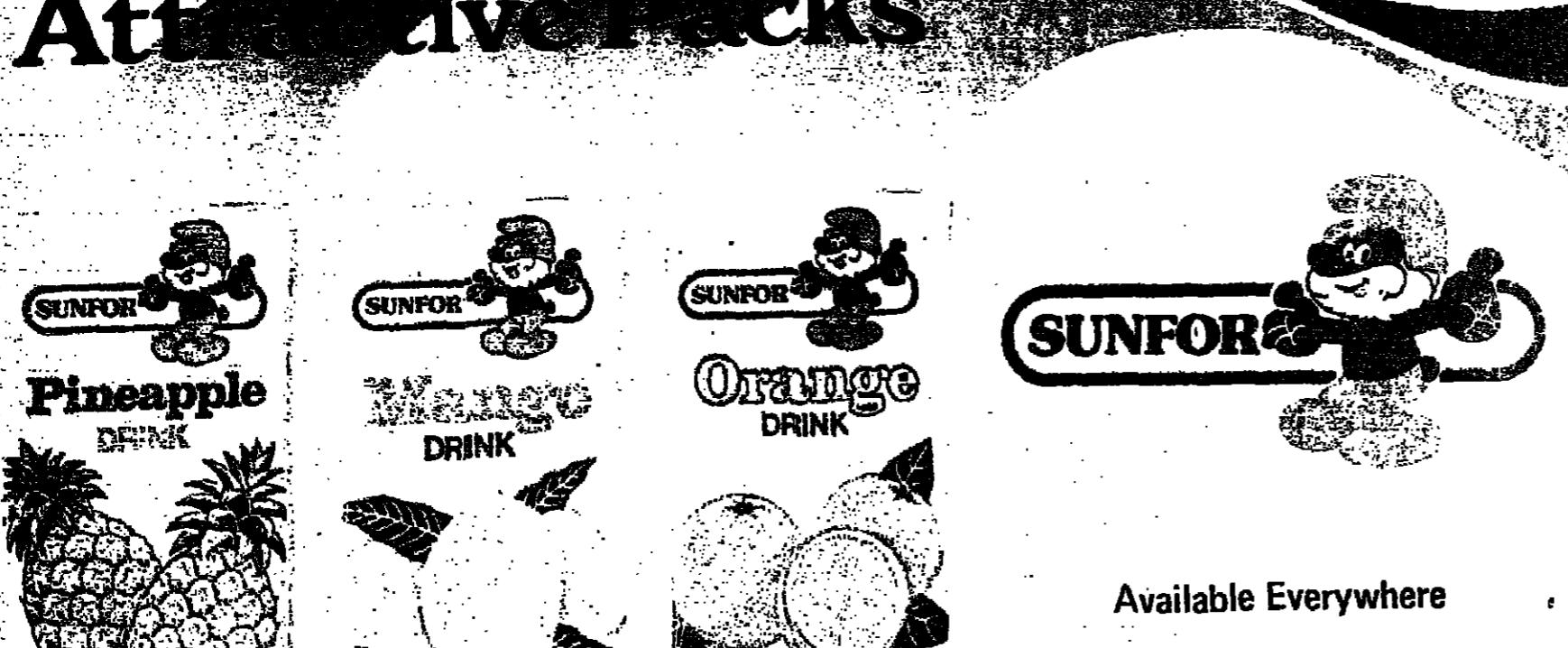
Unlike the rest of the top players, Navratilova is not appearing in Hamburg this week and Rome next week to hone her game for the second Grand Slam tournament of the year, the French Open which begins May 28.

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Hadlee, Azharuddin have key tour roles

LONDON, May 4. (Reuters): New Zealand's old warrior Richard Hadlee and India's new captain Mohammad Azharuddin carry a contrasting burden of expectation for their teams during cricket tours of England this season.

Hadlee, the only player to take 400 Test wickets, has spent weeks nursing himself back to full fitness time to spearhead New Zealand's attack here.

His country undertakes a two-month tour starting on Sunday and including three Tests and two one-day matches against England, while Azharuddin's Indians also play a three-Test series and two limited-overs internationals in an itinerary beginning on June 28.

Hadlee has already said New Zealand's Test against Australia in Wellington in March was his last home appearance for his country. Now the 38-year-old pace bowler returns to the scene of some of his finest triumphs for his Test farewell.

Hadlee's masterly seam bowling has made him the greatest exponent of the art during his era, underlined by his haul of 415 wickets in 83 Tests since his debut in 1973. Ian Botham has the second highest tally of 376 from 97 Tests.

Hadlee's haul could be extended this summer to stand as the Test record for a considerable time, given his deep knowledge of English conditions in which he developed his skills so successfully during four previous tours and 10 seasons with Nottinghamshire.

A fully fit Hadlee — he had an Achilles tendon operation at the end of last year and suffered a groin injury during his testimonial games in March — will be crucial to New Zealand's prospects of repeating their 1986 Test series win here.

John Wright's team can probably bank on making enough runs from a batting line-up starting with the captain himself and including Martin Crowe, Mark Greatbatch and Andrew Jones, but Hadlee is the match-winner of their attack.

He is likely to share the new ball in the Tests with the improving Danny Morrison, New Zealand's most successful bowler in the recent three-Test series against India in which he took 16 wickets.

Martin Snedden should provide the main pace support, with off-spinner John Bracewell expected to be the specialist slow bowler. He can contribute useful runs, too, so that with Ian Smith developing into an effective wicket-keeper-batsman, New Zealand have a well-balanced side.

They may provide a more searching Test for England than India, who have given Azharuddin the captaincy in an attempt to improve their ailing fortunes. The Indians, who are due to name their touring side next week, have lost four and drawn seven of their last 11 Tests.

Azharuddin, despite little leadership experience at domestic level, succeeded Krishnamachari Srikkanth whose brief reign included leading India in a drawn four-Test rubber in Pakistan at the end of 1989.

Azharuddin's first captaincy assignment, a tour of New Zealand earlier this year, ended with India losing the three-Test series 1-0 but at least showed the skipper's own batting form was on the up and up.

Five years ago Azharuddin burst on to the international stage by becoming the first player to score a century in each of his first three Tests at home against England.

But his performances subsequently faltered, due partly to his vulnerability to the lifting ball, until he resolved the problem during last year's series in Pakistan.

He had India's second best aggregate in the four Tests (312) and followed that by scoring the most runs (303) for his team during the three Tests in New Zealand.

Azharuddin's ability to sustain such form in England, while still learning all the aspects of captaincy, will be significant to his team's hopes of success.

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